T. SMOLLETT, M.D.

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CONTINUATION

OF THE COMPLETE

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

By T. SMOLLETT, M.D.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

Non tamen pigebit vel incondita ac rudi voce memoriam prioris ſervitutis, ac teſtimonium præſentium bonorum compoſuiſſe. TACIT. Agricola.

A NEW EDITION.

LONDON:

Printed for RICHARD BALDWIN, at the Roſe in Paternoſter-row.

MDCCLXIII.

G.R.
BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE

PUBLIC.

IF the author of the Complete Hiſtory of England may be allowed to judge from the extraordinary demand for his work, and the ſentiments of many perſons, for whoſe opinions he has the utmoſt deference, this addition will be favourably received, and indeed required by his readers, as a completion of the original plan.

In this taſk he has engaged with the greater alacrity, as the ſubject teems with incidents and events which the hiſtorian can record with pleaſure, and the reader peruſe with peculiar ſatisfaction.

The latter part of what has been offered to the public exhibits an unpleaſing tiſſue of miſconduct and miſcarriage; at home, an adminiſtration without vigour; abroad, a war without ſucceſs: in a word, a people groaning under the double preſſure of internal diſcontent and external diſhonour. In the period that remains to be diſcuſſed, the ſcene is agreeably changed, and preſents ſuch a fortunate aſſemblage of objects as never occurred in any other æra of Engliſh hiſtory.

The views of the crown are at length reconciled to the deſires of the people. We

ſee, for the firſt time, a miniſter in full poſſeſſion of popularity, requiring infinitely greater ſubſidies than ever were exacted under any former reign, ſince the beginning of the monarchy; and the ſubjects paying them with chearfulneſs, becauſe they confide in the integrity of the adminiſtration, and know thoſe liberal aids will be expended for the honour and advantage of the commonwealth. We have alſo lived to ſee the fallacy of a pernicious and ſpurious maxim, adopted by ſome late miniſters, that the machine of government could not be properly moved, unleſs the wheels were ſmeared with corruption.

Our military operations are now planned with ſo much wiſdom and ſagacity, and executed with ſuch ſpirit, as revive the luſtre of paſt ages; and the glory of our late conqueſts even rivals the renown of thoſe heroic atchievements which dignify and adorn the ancient annals of Great Britain. We behold valour tutored by conduct, ſentiment united with courage, and the godlike virtues of humanity ſhining in the midſt of ſlaughter and deſolation. What is ſtill more extraordinary, and above all other circumſtances redounds to the honour of our national councils, we feel none of thoſe rude tempeſts that are raiſed by the furious breath of war. Notwithſtanding all the hoſtile efforts of the moſt formidable enemy, which Diſcord could have armed

armed againſt this iſland, we enjoy the bleſſings of ſecurity and repoſe; as if we were hedged around by ſome Divinity; and our commerce flouriſhes undiſturbed as in the boſom of peace.

Themes like theſe cannot fail to warm the heart, and animate the pen of the hiſtorian, who glows with the love of his country. Yet he will carefully avoid the imputation of enthuſiaſm. In the midſt of his tranſports he hopes to remember his duty, and check the exuberance of zeal with the rigid ſeverity of hiſtorical truth.

This is the guiding ſtar by which he hath hitherto ſteered his dangerous courſe; the ſtar whoſe chearing radiance has conducted him ſafe through the rocks of prejudice and the tides of faction. Guiltleſs of all connexions that might be ſuppoſed to affect his candour, and endanger his integrity, he is determined to proceed with that fearleſs ſpirit of independence, by which he flatters himſelf the former part of the work hath been remarkably diſtinguiſhed. Equally incapable of ſervile complaiſance to power, and implicit attachment to particular ſyſtems, he will praiſe without reſerve, and blame without apprehenſion, as often as virtue merits his applauſe or vice provokes his cenſure; and the reader ſhall have no juſt cauſe to tax him with having concealed any important blemiſh or

defect even in the moſt ſhining character, ſo far as it falls within the province of hiſtory.

He takes this opportunity of expreſſing his warmeſt acknowledgments to thoſe gentlemen who have contributed their advice and aſſiſtance towards the execution of this deſign; and as he is provided with authentic materials for that purpoſe, he doubts not but that he ſhall be able to preſerve the favour of the public, which he ſhall always aſſiduouſly cultivate, in preſenting it with the ſequel of a work, which hath ſurmounted every ſpecies of oppoſition, and acquired ſome degree of credit, though unowned by patronage, and unſuſtained by party.

N. B. As many anonymous writers have been hired to abuſe this work in printed papers and pamphlets, the author takes this opportunity of declaring, that if any perſon of character in the Republic of Letters ſhall think proper to cenſure this hiſtory in print, and ſet his name to his animadverſions, he (the author) will anſwer them to the beſt of his power; but it cannot be expected that he ſhould employ his time in diſputing with obſcure, mercenary, and deſperate ſcribblers, who enliſt themſelves under the banners of malicious intereſted calumny, and may be ſaid to ſubſiſt upon the wages of aſſaſſination.

CONTI-

CONTINUATION

OF THE

HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

GEORGE II.

THE peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, however unſtable or inglorious it might appear to thoſe few who underſtood the intereſts, and felt for the honour of their country, was nevertheleſs not unwelcome to the nation in general. The Britiſh miniſtry will always find it more difficult to ſatisfy the people at the end of a ſucceſsful campaign, than at the concluſion of an unfortunate war. The Engliſh are impatient of miſcarriage and diſappointment, and too apt to be intoxicated with victory. At this period they were tired of the burthens, and ſick of the diſgraces, to which they had been expoſed in the courſe of ſeven tedious campaigns. They had ſuffered conſiderable loſſes and interruption in the article of commerce, which was the ſource of their national opulence and power: they knew it would of neceſſity be clogged with

An. 1748. Reflections on the peace.

An. 1748. additional duties, for the maintenance of a continental war, and the ſupport of foreign ſubſidiaries; and they drew very faint preſages of future ſucceſs either from the conduct of their allies, or the capacity of their commanders.

To a people influenced by theſe conſiderations, the reſtoration of a free trade, the reſpite from that anxiety and ſuſpence which the proſecution of a war never fails to engender, and the proſpect of ſpeedy deliverance from diſcouraging reſtraint and oppreſſive impoſitions, were advantages that ſweetened the bitter draught of a diſhonourable treaty, and induced the majority of the nation to acquieſce in the peace, not barely without murmuring, but even with ſome degree of ſatisfaction and applauſe.

The adherents of the prince of Wales join the oppoſition in parliament.

Immediately after the exchange of ratifications at Aix-la-Chapelle the armies were broke up: the allies in the Netherlands withdrew their ſeveral proportions of troops; the French began to evacuate Flanders: and the Engliſh forces were reimbarked for their own country. His Britannic majeſty returned from his German dominions in November, having landed near Margate in Kent, after a dangerous paſſage; and on the twenty-ninth of the ſame month he opened the ſeſſion of parliament. By this time the miſunderſtanding between the two firſt perſonages of the royal family had been encreaſed by a freſh acceſſion of matter. The prince of Wales had held a court of ſtannery, or what is called a parliament, in quality of duke of Cornwall; and revived ſome claims attached to that dignity, which, had they been admitted, would have greatly augmented his influence among the Corniſh boroughs.

Theſe

These efforts aroused the jealousy of the administration, which had always considered thm as an interest wholly depending upon the crown; and therefore the pretensions of his royal highness were opposed by the whole weight of the ministry. His adherents resenting these hostilities as an injury to their royal master, immediately joined the remnant of the former opposition in parliament, and resolved to counteract all the ministerial measures that should fall under their cognizance; at least, they determined to seize every opportunity of thwarting the servants of the crown, in every scheme or proposal that had not an evident tendency to the advantage of the nation. An. 1748.

This band of auxiliaries was headed by the earl of E—t, Dr. Lee, and Mr. N—t. The first possessed a species of eloquence rather plausible than powerful: he spoke with fluency and fire: his spirit was bold and enterprising, his apprehension quick, and his repartee severe. Dr. Lee was a man of extensive erudition and irreproachable morals, particularly versed in the civil law, which he professed, and perfectly well acquainted with the constitution of his country. Mr. N—t was an orator of middling abilities, who harangued upon all subjects indiscriminately, and supplied with confidence what he wanted in capacity: he had been at some pains to study the business of the house, as well as to understand the machine of government; and was tolerably well heard, as he generally spoke with an appearance of good humour, and hazarded every whimsical idea as it rose in his imagination. But Lord Bolingbroke is said to have been the chief spring which, in secret, actuated the deliberations

An. 1748. tions of the prince's court. That nobleman, ſeemingly ſequeſtered from the tumults of a public life, reſided in the neighbourhood of London, at Batterſea, where he was viſited like a ſainted ſhrine by all the diſtinguiſhed votaries of wit, eloquence, and political ambition. There he was cultivated and admired for the elegance of his manners, and the charms of his converſation. The prince's curioſity was firſt captivated by his character, and his eſteem was afterwards ſecured by the irreſiſtible addreſs of that extraordinary perſonage, who continued in a regular progreſſion to inſinuate himſelf ſtill farther and farther into the good graces of his royal patron. How far the conduct of his royal highneſs was influenced by the private advice of this nobleman, we ſhall not pretend to determine: but, certain it is, the friends of the miniſtry propagated a report, that he was the dictator of thoſe meaſures which the prince adopted; and that, under the ſpecious pretext of attachment to the heir-apparent of the crown, he concealed his real aim, which was to perpetuate the breach in the royal family. Whatever his ſentiments and motives might have been, this was no other than a revival of the old miniſterial clamour, importing, that a man cannot be well affected to the king, if he pretends to cenſure any meaſure of the adminiſtration.

Character of the miniſtry.

The weight which the oppoſition derived from theſe new confederates in the houſe of commons, was ſtill greatly overballanced by the power, influence, and ability, that ſuſtained every miniſterial project. Mr. Pelham, who chiefly managed the helm of affairs, was generally eſteemed as a man of honeſty

honeſty and candour, actuated by a ſincere love for his country, though he had been educated in erroneous principles of government, and in ſome meaſure obliged to proſecute a fatal ſyſtem, which deſcended to him by inheritance. An. 1748.

At this time he numbered Mr. Pitt among his fellow-miniſters, and was moreover ſupported by many other individuals of diſtinguiſhed abilities; among whom the firſt place, in point of genius, was due to Mr. M—, who executed the office of ſollicitor-general. This gentleman, the ſon of a noble family in North Britain, had raiſed himſelf to great eminence at the bar, by the moſt keen intuitive ſpirit of apprehenſion, that ſeemed to ſeize every object at firſt glance, an innate ſagacity that ſaved the trouble of intenſe application, and an irreſiſtible ſtream of eloquence, that flowed pure and claſſical, ſtrong and copious, reflecting, in the moſt conſpicuous point of view, the ſubjects over which it rolled, and ſweeping before it all the ſlime of formal heſitation, and all the intangling weeds of chicanery.

Yet the ſervants of the crown were not ſo implicitly attached to the firſt miniſter as to acquieſce in all his plans, and dedicate their time and talents to the ſupport of every court-meaſure indiſcriminately. This was one material point in which Mr. Pelham deviated from the maxims of his predeceſſor, who admitted of no contradiction from any of his adherents or fellow-ſervants, but inſiſted upon their ſacrificing their whole perception and faculties to his conduct and diſpoſal. That ſordid deference to a miniſter no longer characteriſed the ſubordinate inſtruments of the adminiſtration.

It

An. 1748. It was not unuſual to ſee the great officers of the government divided in a parliamentary debate, and to hear the ſecretary at war oppoſing with great vehemence a clauſe ſuggeſted by the chancellor of the exchequer.

After all, if we coolly conſider thoſe arguments which have been bandied about, and retorted with ſuch eagerneſs and acrimony in the houſe of commons, and diveſt them of thoſe paſſionate tropes and declamatory metaphors which the ſpirit of oppoſition alone had produced, we ſhall find very little left for the ſubject of diſpute, and ſometimes be puzzled to diſcover any material ſource of diſagreement.

Seſſion opened. In the month of November his majeſty opened the ſeſſion of parliament with a ſpeech, importing, That the definitive treaty of peace was at length ſigned by all the parties concerned; That he had made the moſt effectual proviſion for ſecuring the rights and intereſts of his own ſubjects; and procured for his allies the beſt conditions, which, in the preſent ſituation of affairs, could be obtained. He ſaid, he had found a general good diſpoſition in all parties to bring the negotiation to a happy concluſion; and obſerved, that we might promiſe ourſelves a long enjoyment of the bleſſings of peace. Finally, after having remarked that times of tranquillity were the proper ſeaſons for leſſening the national debt, and ſtrengthening the kingdom againſt future events, he recommended to the commons the improvement of the public revenue, the maintenance of a conſiderable naval force, the advancement of commerce, and the cultivation of the arts of peace.

This

This ſpeech, as uſual, was ecchoed back by an addreſs to the throne from both houſes, containing general expreſſions of the warmeſt loyalty and gratitude to his majeſty, and implying the moſt perfect ſatisfaction and acquieſcence in the articles of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. An. 1748.

The members in the oppoſition, according to cuſtom, cavilled at the nature of this addreſs. They obſerved, that the late pacification was the worſt and moſt inglorious of all the bad treaties to which the Engliſh nation had ever ſubſcribed: that it was equally diſgraceful, indefinite, and abſurd: They ſaid the Britiſh navy had gained ſuch an aſcendency over the French at ſea, that the ſources of their wealth were already choaked up; that the ſiege of Maeſtricht would have employed their arms in the Low Countries till the arrival of the Ruſſians; and that the acceſſion of theſe auxiliaries would have thrown the ſuperiority into the ſcale of the allies. They did not fail to take notice, that the moſt important and original object of the war was left wholly undecided; and they demonſtrated the abſurdity of their promiſing, in the addreſs, to make good ſuch engagements as his majeſty had entered into with his allies, before they knew what thoſe engagements were. Debate on the addreſs.

In anſwer to theſe objections the miniſters replied, That the peace was in itſelf rather better than could be expected; and that the ſmalleſt delay might have proved fatal to the liberties of Europe. They affirmed, that the Dutch were upon the point of concluding a neutrality, in conſequence of which their troops would have been withdrawn from the allied army; and, in that caſe, even the addi-

An. 1748. addition of the Ruſſian auxiliaries would not have rendered it a match for the enemy. They aſſerted, That if the war had been prolonged another year, the national credit of Great Britain muſt have been intirely ruined, inaſmuch as many of the public funds had in the preceding ſeaſon ſunk below par, ſo that the miniſtry had begun to deſpair of ſeeing the money paid in on the new ſubſcription.

With reſpect to the reſtoration of Cape Breton, the limits of Nova Scotia, and the right of navigating without ſearch in the American ſeas, which right had been left uneſtabliſhed in the treaty; they declared, That the firſt was an unneceſſary expence, of no conſequence to Great Britain; and that the other two were points in diſpute, to be amicably ſettled in private conferences by commiſſaries duly authoriſed; but by no means articles to be eſtabliſhed by a general treaty.

The Britiſh miniſtry, in the courſe of their parliamentary conteſts, have generally injured their own projects, by attempting to prove poſitions indiſcreetly urged in the face of common ſenſe and underſtanding. Had they reſted their defence of the treaty upon the imminent danger to which the States of the United Provinces were expoſed, and the certain proſpect of their being obliged to withdraw their forces from the general confederacy, the plea would have been perhaps univerſally admitted; or, at leaſt, it would have ſerved as a plauſible excuſe for cloſing with certain propoſals, which, in other circumſtances, ought to have been rejected with diſdain. But, in preſuming to offer ſuch an outrage to the underſtanding of the people, as that of declaring, that the diſputes which produced

duced the war were not the objects to be diſcuſſed in the treaty of peace; and that the national credit of Great Britain would not probably ſuffice to animate the operations of another campaign; they expoſed themſelves to the cenſure and the ridicule of all the world, and even invalidated the credit which their other allegations had a right to acquire. An. 1748.

If the public credit had run any riſque, or undergone the ſmalleſt ſhock, this misfortune was not owing to the war, but to the ſhameful practices of the miniſters themſelves, who endeavoured to make a job of the ſubſcription, for the benefit of their favourites and underſtrappers. As in every former expedient of this kind the ſubſcription had ſold for a conſiderable premium, they concluded that this would meet with the ſame eager reception; and in this hope parcelled out the greater part of it among their friends and adherents, though few of them had credit ſufficient to borrow money for the firſt payment of the large ſums for which they were allowed to ſubſcribe: a circumſtance of which thoſe who were really moneyed men took the advantage. They were determined againſt ſubmitting to the tyranny of this miniſterial job; and they reſtrained their impatience to purchaſe, well knowing that the ſubſcription would fall to a conſiderable diſcount. The difficulty, therefore, that threatened to clog the operations of government, was owing to a ſcandalous ſpirit of monopoly and oppreſſion in the members of the adminiſtration, not to the diſtreſſes of the public, which we have lived to ſee in a flouriſhing condition, under the load of much greater incumbrances.

An. 1748. Supplies granted.

What the oppoſition wanted in ſtrength, it endeavoured to make up with ſpirit and perſeverance. Every miniſterial motion and meaſure was canvaſſed, ſifted, and impugned with uncommon art and vivacity: but all this little availed againſt the ſingle article of ſuperior number; and accordingly this was the ſource of certain triumph in all debates, in which the ſervants of the crown were united. The nation had reaſon to expect an immediate mitigation in the article of annual expence, conſidering the number of troops and ſhips of war which had been reduced at the ratification of the treaty: but they were diſagreeably undeceived in finding themſelves again loaded with very extraordinary impoſitions, for the payment of a vaſt debt which the government had contracted in the courſe of the war, notwithſtanding the incredible aids granted in parliament.

Four points of conſideration did the committee of ſupply eſtabliſh, in their deliberations concerning the ſums neceſſary to be raiſed; namely, for fulfilling the engagements which the parliament had entered into with his majeſty, and the ſervices undertaken for the ſucceſs of the war; for diſcharging debts contracted by the government; for making good deficiencies; and for defraying the current expence of the year.

It appeared, that the nation owed four and forty thouſand pounds to the elector of Bavaria; above thirty thouſand to the duke of Brunſwic; the like ſum to the landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel; and near nine thouſand pounds to the elector of Mentz. The queen of Hungary claimed an arrear of one hundred thouſand pounds. The city of Glaſgow, in

North

North Britain, preſented a petition, praying to be reimburſed in the ſum of ten thouſand pounds, extorted from that corporation by the ſon of the Pretender, during the rebellion. One hundred and twelve thouſand pounds were owing to the forces in North America and the Eaſt Indies; beſides near half a million due on extraordinary expence incurred by the land forces in America, Flanders, and North Britain, the office of ordnance, and other ſervices of the laſt year, to which the parliamentary proviſion did not extend. The remaining debt of the ordnance amounted to above two hundred and thirty thouſand pounds: but the navy bills could not be diſcharged for leſs than four millions. The addition of two millions three hundred and ſeventy four thouſand three hundred thirty-three pounds fifteen ſhillings and two pence, were required for the current ſervice of the year. In a word, the whole annual ſupply exceeded eight millions ſterling; a ſum at which the whole nation expreſſed equal aſtoniſhment and diſguſt. It was charged upon the duties on malt, mum, cyder, and perry, the land-tax at four ſhillings in the pound, annuities on the ſinking fund, an application of one million from that depoſit, and a loan of the like ſum to be charged on the firſt aids of next ſeſſion. The number of ſeamen was reduced to ſeventeen thouſand, and that of the land forces to eighteen thouſand eight hundred and fifty-ſeven, including guards and garriſons. An. 1748.

Every article of expence, however, was warmly diſputed by the anti-courtiers; eſpecially the demand of the queen of Hungary, which was deemed unreaſonably exorbitant and rapacious, conſidering Oppoſition to a demand of the Empreſs-queen.

An. 1748. the ſeas of blood which we had ſhed, and the immenſity of treaſure we had exhauſted for her benefit: and ſurely the ſubjects of this nation had ſome reaſon to complain of an indulgence of this nature, granted to a power which they had literally ſnatched from the brink of ruin; a power whoſe quarrel they had eſpouſed with a degree of enthuſiaſm, that did much more honour to their gallantry than to their diſcretion: a power that kept aloof, with a ſtatelineſs of pride peculiar to herſelf and family, and beheld her Britiſh auxiliaries fighting her battles at their own expence; while ſhe ſquandered away, in the idle pageantry of barbarous magnificence, thoſe ample ſubſidies which they advanced in order to maintain her armies, and furniſh out her proportion of the war. The leaders of the oppoſition neglected no opportunity of embittering the triumphs of their adverſaries: they inveighed againſt the extravagance of granting ſixteen thouſand pounds for the pay of general and ſtaff officers during a peace that required no ſuch eſtabliſhment, eſpecially at a juncture when the national incumbrances rendered it abſolutely neceſſary to practiſe every expedient of oeconomy. They even combated the requeſt of the city of Glaſgow to be indemnified for the extraordinary exaction it underwent from the rebels; although it appeared, from unqueſtionable evidence, that this extraordinary contribution was exacted on account of that city's peculiar attachment to the reigning family; that it had always invariably adhered to revolution-principles; and, with an unequalled ſpirit of loyalty and zeal for the proteſtant ſucceſſion, diſtinguiſhed itſelf both in the laſt and preceding rebellion.

But

But the moſt violent conteſt aroſe upon certain regulations which the miniſtry wanted to eſtabliſh in two bills, relating to the ſea and land ſervice. The firſt, under the title of a bill for amending, explaining, and reducing into one act of parliament the laws relating to the navy, was calculated ſolely with a view of ſubjecting half-pay officers to martial law; a deſign which not only furniſhed the oppoſition with a plauſible handle for accuſing the miniſters, as intending to encroach upon the conſtitution, in order to extend the influence of the crown; but alſo alarmed the ſea-officers to ſuch a degree, that they aſſembled to a conſiderable number, with a view to deliberate upon the proper means for defending their privileges and liberties from invaſion. An. 1748. Progreſs of the bill relating to ſeamen.

The reſult of their conſultations was a petition to the houſe of commons, ſubſcribed by three admirals and forty-ſeven captains, not members of parliament, importing, That the bill in agitation contained ſeveral clauſes tending to the injury and diſhonour of all naval officers, as well as to the detriment of his majeſty's ſervice; and that the laws already in force had been always found effectual for ſecuring the ſervice of officers on half-pay, upon the moſt preſſing occaſions: they therefore hoped, that they ſhould not be ſubjected to new hardſhips and diſcouragements; and begged to be heard by their counſel, before the committee of the whole houſe, touching ſuch parts of the bill as they apprehended would be injurious to themſelves and the other officers of his majeſty's navy. This petition was preſented to the houſe by Sir John Norris, and the motion for its being read was ſecond-

An. 1748. ed by Sir Peter Warren, whoſe character was univerſally eſteemed and beloved in the nation.

This meaſure had like to have produced very ſerious conſequences. Many commanders and ſubalterns had repaired to the board of admiralty, and threatened, in plain terms, to throw up their commiſſions, in caſe the bill ſhould paſs into a law; and a general ferment was begun among all the ſubordinate members of the navy. A motion was made, That the petitioners, according to their requeſt, ſhould be heard by their counſel; and this propoſal was ſtrongly urged by the firſt orators of the antiminiſterial aſſociation: but the miniſter, confiding in his own ſtrength, reinforced by the abilities of Mr. Pitt, Mr. Lyttleton, and Mr. Fox the ſecretary at war, ſtrenuouſly oppoſed the motion, which, upon a diviſion, was thrown out by a great majority.

The ſeveral articles of the bill were afterwards ſeparately debated with great warmth; and although Mr. Pelham had, with the moſt diſintereſted air of candour, repeatedly declared that he required no ſupport, even from his own adherents, but that which might ariſe from reaſon unreſtrained, and full conviction, he, on this occaſion, reaped all the fruit of their zeal and attachment which could be expected from the moſt implicit complaiſance. Some plauſible amendments of the moſt exceptionable clauſes were offered, particularly of that which impoſed an oath upon the members of every court-martial, importing, that they ſhould not, on any account, diſcloſe the opinions or tranſactions of any ſuch tribunal. This was conſidered as a ſanction under which any court-martial might commit the moſt flagrant

grant acts of injuſtice and oppreſſion, which even the parliament itſelf could not redreſs, becauſe it would be impoſſible to aſcertain the truth, eternally ſealed up by this abſurd obligation. The amendment propoſed was, that the member of a court-martial might reveal the tranſactions and opinions of it, in all caſes wherein the courts of juſtice, as the law now ſtands, have a right to interfere, if required thereto by either houſe of parliament: a very reaſonable mitigation, which however was rejected by the majority. Nevertheleſs, the ſuſpicion of an intended encroachment had raiſed ſuch a clamour without doors, and diffuſed the odium of this meaſure ſo generally, that the miniſter thought proper to drop the projected article of war, ſubjecting the reformed officers of the navy to the juriſdiction of courts martial; and the bill being alſo ſoftened in other particulars, during its paſſage through the upper houſe, at length received the royal aſſent. An. 1748.

Objections to the mutiny-bill.

The flame which this act had kindled, was rather encreaſed than abated at the appearance of a new mutiny-bill, replete with divers innovations, tending to augment the influence of the crown, as well as the authority and power of a military juriſdiction. All the articles of war eſtabliſhed ſince the reign of the ſecond Charles, were ſubmitted to the inſpection of the commons; and in theſe appeared a gradual ſpirit of encroachment, almoſt imperceptibly deviating from the civil inſtitutes of the Engliſh conſtitution, towards the eſtabliſhment of a military dominion. By this new bill a power was veſted in any commander in chief to reviſe and correct any legal ſentence of a court-martial, by which the members of ſuch a court, correſponding with

An. 1748. the nature of a civil jury, were rendered abſolutely uſeleſs, and the commander in a great meaſure abſolute; for he had not only the power of ſummoning ſuch officers as he might chooſe to ſit on any trial, a prerogative unknown to any civil court of judicature: but he was alſo at liberty to review and alter the ſentence; ſo that a man was ſubject to two trials for the ſame offence, and the commander in chief was judge both of the guilt and the puniſhment. By the final clauſe of this bill, the martial law was extended to all officers on half-pay; and the ſame argument, which had been urged againſt this article in the navy-bill, were now repeated and reinforced with redoubled fervour. Many reaſons were offered to prove that the half-pay was allotted as a recompence for paſt ſervice; and the opponents of the bill affirmed, that ſuch an article, by augmenting the dependents of the crown, might be very dangerous to the conſtitution. On the other hand, the partiſans of the miniſtry aſſerted that the half-pay was granted as a retaining fee; and that originally all thoſe who enjoyed this indulgence, were deemed to be in actual ſervice, conſequently ſubject to martial law. Mr. P——, who at this time exerciſed the office of paymaſter general with a rigour of integrity unknown to the moſt diſintereſted of all his predeceſſors in that department eſpouſed the clauſe in diſpute, as a neceſſary extenſion of military diſcipline which could never be attended with any bad conſequence to the liberty of the nation. The remarks which he made on this occaſion implied an opinion that our liberties wholly exiſted in dependence upon the direction of the ſovereign, and the virtue of the army. "To that virtue,

virtue, ſaid he, we truſt even at this hour, ſmall as our army is—to that virtue we muſt have truſted had this bill been modelled as its warmeſt oppoſers could have wiſhed; and without this virtue, ſhould the lords, the commons, and the people of England intrench themſelves behind parchment up to the teeth, the ſword will find a paſſage to the vitals of the conſtitution." This being the caſe, vain, fruitleſs, and unneceſſary, muſt thoſe precautions be, which are ſo carefully tranſmitted from one ſeſſion to another, in order to reſtrain the military power within the conſtitutional pale of parliament. At any rate, it cannot ſurely be adviſable to eſtabliſh ſuch new regulations as may poſſibly be productive of prejudice to national liberty, unleſs the want of them had been proved detrimental to the ſervice of the public. An. 1748.

All the diſputed articles of the bill being ſuſtained on the ſhoulders of a great majority, it was conveyed to the upper houſe, where it excited another violent conteſt. Upon the queſtion whether officers on half-pay had not been ſubject to martial law, the judges were conſulted and divided in their ſentiments. The earl of Bath declared his opinion, that the martial-law did not extend to reformed officers; and opened all the ſluices of his antient eloquence. He admitted a caſe which was urged of ſeven officers on half pay, who, being taken in actual rebellion at Preſton, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifteen, had been executed on the ſpot by martial law, in conſequence of the king's expreſs order. He candidly owned, that he himſelf was ſecretary at war at that period: that he had approved of this order, and even tranſmitted it to general Carpenter, who commanded at

An. 1748. Preſton; but now his opinion was entirely changed. He obſerved that when the forementioned rebellion firſt broke out, the houſe preſented an addreſs to the king, deſiring his majeſty would be pleaſed to employ all half-pay officers, and gratify them with whole pay; and indeed all ſuch officers were voted on whole pay, by the houſe of commons. They were afterwards appriſed of this vote, by an advertiſement in the Gazette, and ordered to hold themſelves in readineſs for repairing to ſuch places as ſhould be appointed; and finally commanded to repair by ſuch a day to thoſe places, on pain of being ſtruck off the liſt of half-pay. Theſe precautions would have been unneceſſary had they been deemed ſubject to martial law; and the penalty for non-obedience would not have been merely a privation of their penſions, but they would have fallen under the puniſhment of death as deſerters from the ſervice. His lordſhip diſtinguiſhed, with great propriety and preciſion, between a ſtep which had been precipitately taken in a violent criſis, when the public was heated with apprehenſion and reſentment, and a ſolemn law concerted at leiſure, during the moſt profound tranquillity. Notwithſtanding the ſpirited oppoſition of this nobleman, and ſome attempts to inſert additional clauſes, the bill having undergone a few inconſiderable amendments, paſſed by virtue of a very conſiderable majority.

Bill for limiting the term of a ſoldier's ſervice.

Immediately after the mutiny bill had paſſed the lower houſe, another fruitleſs effort was made by the oppoſition. The danger of a ſtanding army, on whoſe virtue the conſtitution of Great Britain ſeemed to depend, did not fail to alarm the minds of many who were zealouſly attached to the liberties of their country, and gave birth to a ſcheme, which,

which, if executed, would have enabled the legiſlature to eſtabliſh a militia that muſt have anſwered many national purpoſes, and acted as a conſtitutional bulwark againſt the exceſſes and ambition of a military ſtanding force, under the immediate influence of the government. The ſcheme which patriotiſm conceived, was, in all probability, adopted by party. A motion was made, and a bill brought in, limiting the time beyond which no ſoldier, or non commiſſioned officer ſhould be compelled to continue in the ſervice. Had this limitation taken place, ſuch a rotation of ſoldiers would have enſued among the common people, that in a few years every peaſant, labourer, and inferior tradeſman in the kingdom, would have underſtood the exerciſe of arms; and perhaps the people in general would have concluded, that a ſtanding army was altogether unneceſſary. A project of this nature could not, for obvious reaſons, be agreeable to the adminiſtration, and therefore the bill was rendered abortive; for, after having been twice read, it was poſtponed from time to time until the parliament was prorogued, and never appeared in the ſequel. An. 1748.

Such were the chief ſubjects of debate between the miniſtry and the oppoſition, compoſed, as we have already obſerved, of the prince's ſervants and the remains of the country party, this laſt being headed by lord Strange, ſon of the earl of Derby, and Sir Francis Daſhwood; the former a nobleman of diſtinguiſhed abilities, keen, penetrating, eloquent, and ſagacious; the other frank, ſpirited, and ſenſible.

It muſt be owned, however, for the honour of the miniſtry, that, if they carried a few unpopular mea-

An. 1748. meaſures with a high hand, they ſeemed earneſtly deſirous of making amends to the nation, by promoting divers regulations for the benefit and improvement of commerce, which actually took place in the enſuing ſeſſion of parliament. One of the principal objects of this nature, which fell under their cognizance, was the trade to the coaſt of Guinea; a very important branch of traffic, whether conſidered as a market for Britiſh manufactures, or as the ſource that ſupplied the Engliſh plantations with negroes. This was originally monopolized by a joint-ſtock company, which had from time to time derived conſiderable ſums from the legiſlature, for enabling them the better to ſupport certain forts or caſtles on the coaſt of Africa, to facilitate the commerce and protect the merchants. In the ſequel, however, the excluſive privilege having been judged prejudicial to the national trade, the coaſt was laid open to all Britiſh ſubjects indiſcriminately, upon condition that they ſhould pay a certain duty towards defraying the expence of the forts and factories.

Meaſures taken with reſpect to the African trade.

This expedient did not anſwer the purpoſes for which it had been contrived. The ſeparate traders, inſtead of receiving any benefit from the protection of the company, induſtriouſly avoided their caſtles, as the receptacles of tyranny and oppreſſion. The company, whether from the miſconduct or knavery of their directors, contracted ſuch a load of debts as their ſtock was unable to diſcharge. They ſeemed to neglect the traffic, and allowed the caſtles to decay. In a word, their credit being exhauſted, and their creditors growing clamorous, they preſented a petition to the houſe of commons,

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diſcloſing their diſtreſſes, and imploring ſuch aſ- An. 1748.
ſiſtance as ſhould enable them not only to pay their debts, but alſo to maintain the forts in a defenſible condition. This petition, recommended to the houſe in a meſſage from his majeſty, was corroborated by another in behalf of the company's creditors. Divers merchants of London, intereſted in the trade of Africa, and the Britiſh plantations of America, petitioned the houſe, that as the African trade was of the utmoſt importance to the nation, and could not be ſupported without forts and ſettlements, ſome effectual means ſhould be ſpeedily taken for protecting and extending this valuable branch of commerce. A fourth was offered by the merchants of Liverpool, repreſenting, that the ſecurity and protection of the trade to Africa muſt always principally depend upon his majeſty's ſhips of war, properly ſtationed on that coaſt, and ſeaſonably relieved; and that ſuch forts and ſettlements as might be judged neceſſary for marks of ſovereignty and poſſeſſion, would prove a nuiſance and a burthen to the trade, ſhould they remain in the hands of any joint-ſtock company, whoſe private intereſt always had been, and ever would be, found incompatible with the intereſt of the ſeparate and open trader. They therefore prayed, that the ſaid forts might either be taken into his majeſty's immediate poſſeſſion, and ſupported by the public, or committed to the merchants trading on that coaſt, in ſuch a manner as the houſe ſhould judge expedient, without veſting in them any other advantage or right to the commerce, but what ſhould be common to all his majeſty's ſubjects.

This

An. 1748. This remonſtrance was ſucceeded by another, to the ſame effect, from the maſter, wardens, aſſiſtants, and commonalty of the ſociety of merchant-adventurers within the city of Briſtol.

All theſe petitions were referred to a committee appointed to deliberate on this ſubject; and they agreed to certain reſolutions, importing, That the trade to Africa ſhould be free and open; That the Britiſh forts and ſettlements on that coaſt ought to be maintained and put under proper direction; and, That, in order to carry on the African trade in the moſt beneficial manner to theſe kingdoms, all the Britiſh ſubjects trading to Africa ſhould be united in one open company, without any joint-ſtock, or power to trade as a corporation. A bill was immediately founded on theſe reſolutions, which alarmed the company to ſuch a degree, that they had recourſe to another petition, demonſtrating their right to the coaſt of Africa, and expreſſing their reliance on the juſtice of the houſe, that they ſhould not be deprived of their property without an adequate conſideration. In a few days a ſecond addreſs was offered by their creditors, complaining of the company's miſmanagement, promiſing to ſurrender their right, as the wiſdom of parliament ſhould preſcribe; praying, that their debts might be inquired into; and that the equivalent, to be granted for the company's poſſeſſions, might be ſecured and applied, in the firſt place, for their benefit. The commons, in conſequence of this petition, ordered the company to produce a liſt of their debts, together with a copy of their charter, and two remonſtrances which their creditors had preſented to them before this application

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to parliament. A committee of the whole houſe, having deliberated on theſe papers and petitions, and heard the company by their counſel, reſolved to give them a reaſonable compenſation for their charter, lands, forts, ſettlements, ſlaves, and effects, to be, in the firſt place, applied towards the payment of their creditors. A bill being formed accordingly, paſſed through the commons, and was conveyed to the upper houſe, where a great many objections were ſtarted; and for the preſent it was dropped, until a plan more exceptionable ſhould be concerted. In the mean time their lordſhips addreſſed his majeſty, That the lords commiſſioners for trade and plantations might be directed to prepare a ſcheme on this ſubject to be laid before both houſes of parliament at the beginning of next ſeſſion; That inſtant orders ſhould be given for preſerving and ſecuring the forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Guinea belonging to Great Britain; and, That proper perſons ſhould be appointed to examine into the condition of thoſe forts, as well as of the military ſtores, ſlaves, and veſſels belonging to the African company, ſo as to make a faithful report of theſe particulars, with all poſſible expedition. An. 1748.

Scheme for improving the Britiſh fiſhery.

The miniſtry having profeſſed an inclination, and indeed ſhewn a diſpoſition, to promote and extend the commerce of the kingdom, the commons reſolved to take ſome ſteps for encouraging the white fiſhery along the northern coaſt of the iſland, which is an inexhauſtible ſource of wealth to our induſtrious neighbours the Dutch, who employ annually a great number of hands and veſſels in this branch of commerce. The ſenſible part of the

An. 1748. the Britiſh people, reflecting on this ſubject, plainly foreſaw that a fiſhery, under due regulations, undertaken with the protection and encouragement of the legiſlature, would not only prove a fund of national riches, and a nurſery of ſeamen, but likewiſe, in a great meaſure, prevent any future inſurrections in the Highlands of Scotland, by diffuſing a ſpirit of induſtry among the natives of that country, who, finding it in their power to become independent, on the fruits of their own labour, would ſoon enfranchiſe themſelves from that ſlaviſh attachment by which they had been ſo long connected with their landlords and chiefrains. Accordingly a committee was appointed to deliberate on the ſtate of the Britiſh fiſhery; and upon their report, a bill was founded for encouraging the whale fiſhery on the coaſt of Spitzbergen, by a bounty of forty ſhillings per ton of every ſhip equipped for that undertaking.

The bill having made its way through both houſes, and obtained the royal aſſent, the merchants in different parts of the kingdom, particularly in North Britain, began to build and fit out ſhips of great burthen, and peculiar ſtructure, for the purpoſes of that fiſhery, which ever ſince hath been carried on with equal vigour and ſucceſs.

Divers merchants and traders of London having preſented to the houſe of commons a petition, repreſenting the benefits that would accrue to the community from a herring and cod fiſhery, eſtabliſhed on proper principles, and carried on with ſkill and integrity, this remonſtrance was referred to the committee, upon whoſe reſolutions a bill was formed; but before this could be diſcuſſed in the

the houſe, the parliament was prorogued, and of conſequence this meaſure proved abortive. An. 1748.

The next propoſed regulation, in favour of trade, was that of laying open the commerce of Hudſon's bay, in the moſt northern parts of America, where a ſmall monopoly maintained a few forts and ſettlements, and proſecuted a very advantageous fur-trade with the Indians of that continent. It was ſuggeſted, that the company had long ago enriched themſelves by their excluſive privilege; that they employed no more than four annual ſhips; that, contrary to an expreſs injunction in their charter, they diſcouraged all attempts to diſcover a north-weſt paſſage to the Eaſt-Indies; that they dealt cruelly and perfidiouſly with the poor Indians, who never traded with them, except when compelled by neceſſity, ſo that the beſt part of the fur-trade had devolved to the enemies of Great Britain; and that their excluſive patent reſtricted to very narrow limits a branch of commerce, which might be cultivated to a prodigious extent, as well as to the infinite advantage of Great Britain. Attempt to open the commerce to Hudſon's bay.

Petitions, that the trade of Hudſon's bay might be laid open, were preſented to the houſe by merchants of London, Great Yarmouth, and Wolverhampton; and a committee was appointed to deliberate upon the ſubject. On the other hand, the company exerted themſelves in petitions, and private applications for their own preſervation. The committee examined papers and records; and the report was taken into conſideration by the whole houſe. Many evidences were interrogated, and elaborate ſpeeches made, on both ſides of the queſ-

An. 1748. tion. At length the majority ſeemed ſatisfied, that the traffic on the coaſt of Hudſon's bay could not be preſerved without forts and ſettlements, which muſt be maintained either by an exclusive company, or at the public expence; and as this was not judged a proper juncture to encumber the nation with any charge of that kind, the deſign of diſſolving the company was laid aſide to a more favourable opportunity. This, however, was but an indifferent excuſe, provided the trade was really capable of conſiderable extenſion: for the company, having already enriched themſelves by their charter, had no right to demand an indemnification; and the expence of maintaining the forts, being trifling in itſelf, would have been amply refunded by the augmentation of the national commerce.

Miniſterial plan for manning the navy.

The government had during the war, found great difficulty in preſſing men for the ſervice of the navy: a practice, which, however ſanctioned by neceſſity, is nevertheleſs a flagrant incroachment on the liberty of the ſubject, and a violent outrage againſt the conſtitution of Great Britain. The miniſtry, therefore, had employed ſome of their agents to form a ſcheme for retaining in time of peace, by means of a certain allowance, a number of ſeamen, who ſhould be regiſtered for the purpoſe, and be ready to man a ſquadron upon any emergency. Such a plan, properly regulated, would have been a great advantage to commerce, which is always diſtreſſed by the expedient of preſſing ſeamen; and, at the ſame time, a great ſecurity to the kingdom in dangerous conjunctures, when it may be neceſſary to equip an armament

at

at a minute's warning. The houſe of commons being moved upon this ſubject, agreed to divers reſolutions, as a foundation for the bill: but the members in the oppoſition affecting to repreſent this meaſure in an odious light, being an imitation of the French method of regiſtring ſeamen without their own conſent, Mr. Pelham dropped it, as an unpopular project. An. 1748.

Information having been received, that the French intended to ſettle the neutral iſlands of St. Lucia, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, in the Weſt Indies, the nation had taken the alarm in the beginning of the year; and a motion was made in the houſe of commons to addreſs his majeſty, that he would be graciouſly pleaſed to give directions for laying before the houſe copies of the inſtructions given to the governors of Barbadoes for ten years laſt paſt, ſo far as they related to theſe neutral iſlands: but whether the miniſter was conſcious of a neglect in this particular, or thought ſuch inquiries trenched upon the prerogative, he oppoſed the motion with all his might; and, after ſome debate, the previous queſtion paſſed in the negative. Fruitleſs motions made by the members in the oppoſition.

This was alſo the fate of another motion made by the earl of E—t for an addreſs, intreating his majeſty would ſubmit to the inſpection of the houſe all the propoſals of peace that had been made by the French king, ſince the year which preceded the laſt rebellion, to that in which the definitive treaty was concluded at Aix-la Chapelle. This they propoſed as a previous ſtep to the parliament's forming any opinion concerning the utility or neceſſity of the peace which had been eſtabliſhed. Violent

An. 1748. debates enſued, in which the oppoſition was as much excelled in oratory as out-numbered in votes.

Such were the material tranſactions of this ſeſſion, which in the month of June was cloſed as uſual with a ſpeech from the throne; in which his majeſty ſignified his hope, that the parliament, at their next meeting, would be able to perfect what they had now begun for advancing the trade and navigation of the kingdom. He likewiſe expreſſed his ſatisfaction in ſeeing public credit flouriſh at the end of an expenſive war; and recommended unanimity, as the ſureſt bulwark of national ſecurity.

Severities exerciſed upon ſome ſtudents at Oxford.

While the miniſtry, on ſome occaſions, exhibited all the external ſigns of moderation and good humour; they, on others, manifeſted a ſpirit of jealouſy and reſentment, which ſeems to have been childiſh and illiberal. Two or three young riotous ſtudents at Oxford, trained up in prejudice, and heated with intemperance, uttered ſome expreſſions over their cups, importing their attachment to the family of the Pretender. The report of this indiſcretion was induſtriouſly circulated by certain worthleſs individuals, who, having no reliance on their own intrinſic merit, hoped to diſtinguiſh themſelves as the tools of party, and to obtain favour with the miniſtry by acting as volunteers in the infamous practice of information. Though neither the age, rank, nor connections of the delinquents, were ſuch as ought to have attracted the notice of the public, the vice-chancellor, heads of houſes, and proctors of the univerſity, knowing the invidious ſcrutiny to which their conduct was ſubjected,

jected, thought proper to publiſh a declaration, An. 1748.
ſignifying their abhorrence of all ſeditious practices; importing their determined reſolution to puniſh all offenders to the utmoſt ſeverity and rigour of the ſtatutes; and containing peremptory orders for the regulation of the univerſity. Notwithſtanding theſe wiſe and ſalutary precautions, the three boys, who, in the heat of their intoxication, had drank to the Pretender's health, were taken into cuſtody by a meſſenger of ſtate. Two of them being tried in the court of King's Bench, and found guilty, were ſentenced to walk through the courts of Weſtminſter, with an account of their crime fixed to their foreheads; to pay a fine of five nobles each; to be impriſoned for two years, and find ſecurity for their good behaviour for the term of ſeven years after their enlargement. Many people thought they ſaw the proceedings of the ſtar-chamber revived in the ſeverity of this puniſhment.

The adminiſtration, not yet ſatisfied with the vengeance which had been taken on theſe three ſtriplings, ſeemed determined to ſtigmatize the univerſity to which they belonged. The cry of Jacobitiſm was loudly trumpeted againſt the whole community. The addreſs of the univerſity, congratulating his majeſty on the eſtabliſhment of the peace, was rejected with diſdain: an attempt was made to ſubject their ſtatutes to the inſpection of the king's council; but this rule being argued in the court of King's Bench, was diſmiſſed, in conſequence of the opinions given by the judges. Finally, the ſame tribunal granted an information againſt Dr. Purnel, the vice-chancellor, for his

An. 1748. behaviour in the caſe of the rioters abovementioned: but this was countermanded in the ſequel, his conduct having appeared unexceptionable upon a more cool and impartial inquiry.

The duke of Newcaſtle choſen chancellor of the univerſity of Cambridge.

In proportion as Oxford declined, her ſiſter univerſity roſe in the favour of the adminiſtration, which ſhe at this period cultivated by an extraordinary mark of complaiſance and attachment. The dignity of chancellor in that univerſity being vacated by the death of the duke of Somerſet, the nation in general ſeemed to think it would naturally devolve upon the prince of Wales, as a compliment at all times due to that rank; but more eſpecially to the preſent heir aparent, who had eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf by the virtues of a patriot and a prince. He had even pleaſed himſelf with the hope of receiving this mark of attachment from a ſeminary, for which he entertained a particular regard. But the ruling members, ſeeing no immediate proſpect of advantage in glorifying even a prince, who was at variance with the miniſtry, wiſely turned their eyes upon the illuſtrious character of the duke of Newcaſtle, whom they elected without oppoſition, and inſtalled with great magnificence; learning, poetry, and eloquence, joining their efforts in celebrating the ſhining virtues and extraordinary talents of their new patron.

Tumults in different parts of the kingdom.

Although oppoſition lay gaſping at the feet of power, in the houſe of commons, the people of England did not yet implicitly approve all the meaſures of the adminiſtration; and the dregs of faction, ſtill agitated by an internal ferment, threw up ſome ineffectual bubbles in different parts of the

the kingdom. Some of thoſe who made no ſecret of their diſaffection to the reigning family, determined to manifeſt their reſentment and contempt of certain noblemen, and others, who were ſaid to have abandoned their ancient principles, and ſacrificed their conſciences to their intereſt. Many individuals, animated by the fumes of inebriation, now loudly extolled that cauſe which they durſt not avow when it required their open approbation and aſſiſtance; and, though they induſtriouſly avoided expoſing their lives and fortunes to the chance of war, in promoting their favourite intereſt when there was a poſſibility of ſucceſs, they betrayed no apprehenſion in celebrating the memory of its laſt effort, amidſt the tumult of a riot and the clamours of intemperance. An. 1748.

In the neighbourhood of Lichfield the ſportſmen of the party appeared in the Highland taſte of variegated drapery; and their zeal deſcending to a very extraordinary exhibition of practical ridicule, they hunted with hounds, cloathed in plaid, a fox dreſſed in a red uniform.

Even the females at their aſſembly, and the gentlemen at the races, affected to wear the chequered ſtuff, by which the prince pretender and his followers had been diſtinguiſhed. Divers noblemen on the courſe were inſulted as apoſtates; and one perſonage, of high rank, is ſaid to have undergone a very diſagreeable flagellation.

As the public generally ſuffers at the end of a war, by the ſudden diſmiſſion of a great number of ſoldiers and ſeamen, who, having contracted a habit of idleneſs, and finding themſelves without employment and the means of ſubſiſtence, engage

An. 1748. in deſperate courſes, and prey upon the community; it was judged expedient to provide an opening through which theſe unquiet ſpirits might exhale without damage to the commonwealth. The moſt natural was that of encouraging them to become members of a new colony in North America, which, by being properly regulated, ſupported, and improved, might be the ſource of great advantage to its mother country.

Scheme for a ſettlement in Nova Scotia.

Many diſputes had ariſen between the ſubjects of England and the French, concerning the limits of Nova Scotia, which no treaty had as yet properly aſcertained. A fort had been raiſed, and a ſmall garriſon maintained, by the king of Great Britain, at a part of this very country, called Annapolis Royal, to overawe the French neutrals ſettled in the neighbourhood: but this did not anſwer the purpoſe for which it was intended. Upon every rupture or diſpute between the two crowns, theſe planters, forgetting their neutrality, intrigued with the Indians, communicated intelligence to their own countrymen ſettled at St. John's and Cape Breton, and did all the ill offices their hatred could ſuggeſt againſt the colonies and ſubjects of Great Britain.

A ſcheme was now formed for making a new eſtabliſhment on the ſame peninſula, which ſhould further confirm and extend the property and dominion of the crown of Great Britain in that large tract of country, clear the uncultivated grounds, conſtitute communities, diffuſe the benefits of population and agriculture, and improve the fiſhery of that coaſt, which might be rendered a new ſource of wealth and commerce to Old England.

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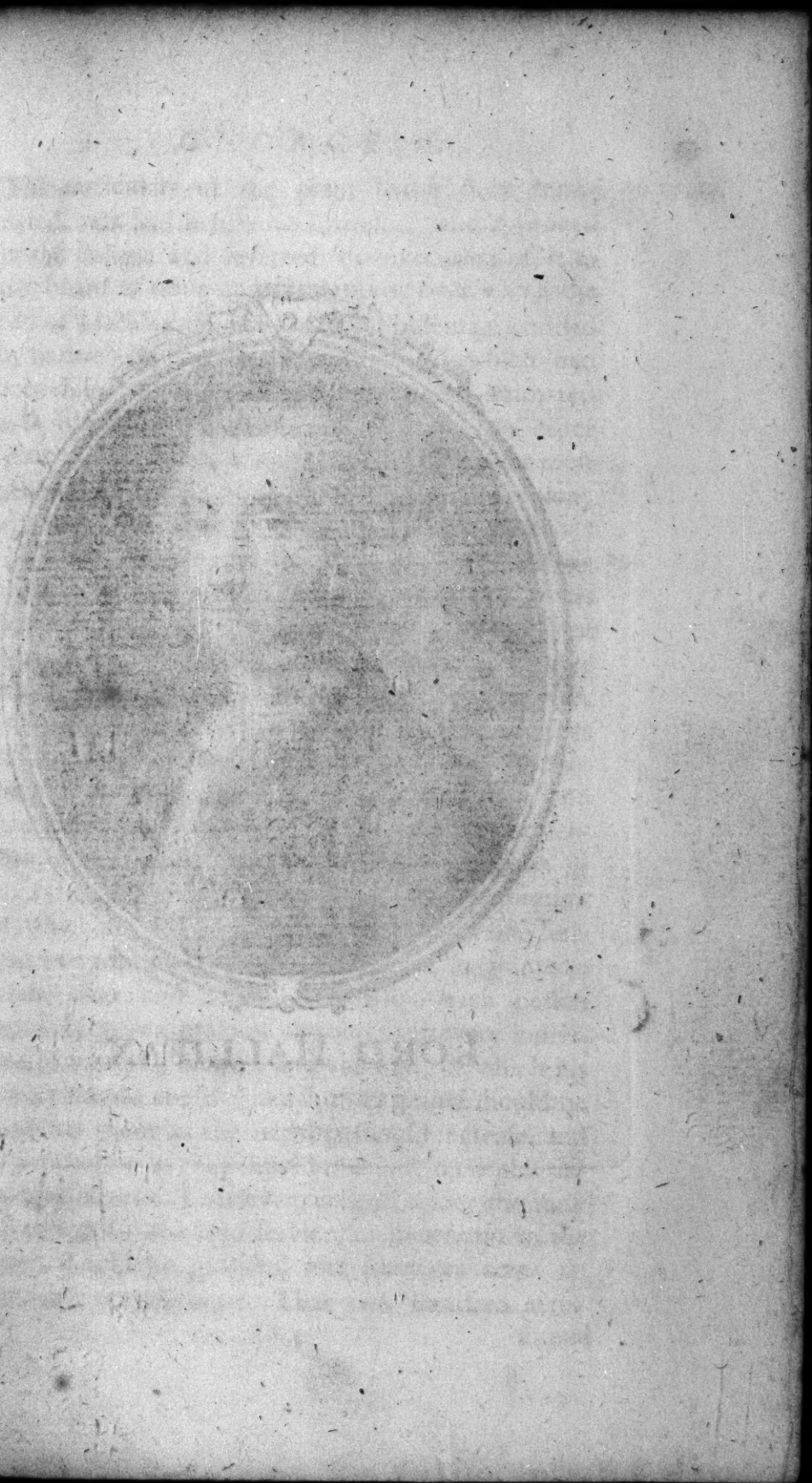

LORD HALLIFAX.

The particulars of the plan, being duly conſi- An. 1748.
dered, was laid before his majeſty, who approved of the deſign, and referred the execution of it to the board of trade and plantations, over which the earl of Hallifax preſided. This nobleman, endued by nature with an excellent capacity, which had been diligently and judiciouſly cultivated, animated with liberal ſentiments, and fired with an eager ſpirit of patriotiſm, adopted the plan with the moſt generous ardour, and cheriſhed the infant colony with paternal affection.

The commiſſioners for trade and plantations immediately advertiſed, under the ſanction of his majeſty's authority, That proper encouragement would be given to ſuch of the officers and private men, lately diſmiſſed from the land and ſea ſervice, as were willing to ſettle with or without families in the province of Nova Scotia: That the fee-ſimple, or perpetual property, of fifty acres of land ſhould be granted to every private ſoldier or ſeaman, free from the payment of any quit-rents or taxes for the term of ten years; at the expiration of which no perſon ſhould pay more than one ſhilling per annum for every fifty acres ſo granted: That, over and above theſe fifty, each perſon ſhould receive a grant of ten acres for every individual, including women and children, of which his family ſhould conſiſt; and further grants ſhould be made to them as the number ſhould increaſe, and in proportion as they ſhould manifeſt their abilities in agriculture: That every officer, under the rank of enſign in the land-ſervice, or lieutenant in the navy, ſhould be gratified with fourſcore acres on the ſame conditions: That two hundred acres

An. 1748. ſhould be beſtowed upon enſigns, three hundred upon lieutenants, four hundred upon captains, and ſix hundred on every officer above that degree, with proportionable conſiderations for the number and increaſe of every family: That the lands ſhould be parcelled out as ſoon as poſſible after the arrival of the coloniſts, and a civil government eſtabliſhed; in conſequence of which they ſhould enjoy all the liberties and privileges of Britiſh ſubjects with proper ſecurity and protection: That the ſettlers, with their families, ſhould be conveyed to Nova Scotia, and maintained for twelve months after their arrival at the expence of the government; which would alſo ſupply them with arms and ammunition, as far as ſhould be judged neceſſary for their defence, with proper materials and utenſils for clearing and cultivating their lands, erecting habitations, exerciſing the fiſhery, and ſuch other purpoſes as ſhould be judged neceſſary for their ſupport.

Execution of the ſcheme for founding the town of Halifax.

The ſcheme was ſo feaſible, and the encouragement ſo inviting, that in a little time about four thouſand adventurers, with their families, were entered, according to the directions of the board of trade. In the beginning of May they ſet ſail from England, under the command of colonel Cornwallis, whom the king had appointed their governor. Towards the latter end of June they arrived at the place of their deſtination, which was the harbour of Chebuctou, on the ſea-coaſt of the peninſula, about midway between Cape Canſeau and Cape Sable. It is one of the moſt ſecure and commodious havens in the whole world, and well ſituated for the fiſhery: but the climate is cold,

the

the ſoil barren, and the whole country covered with woods of birch, fir, pine, and ſome oak, unfit for the purpoſes of timber; but at the ſame time extremely difficult to remove and extirpate. An. 1748.

Governor Cornwallis no ſooner arrived in this harbour, than he was joined by two regiments of infantry from Cape Breton, and a company of rangers from Annapolis. Then he pitched upon a ſpot for the ſettlement, and employed his people in clearing the ground for laying the foundations of a town; but ſome inconveniencies being diſcovered in this ſituation, he choſe another to the northward, hard by the harbour, on an eaſy aſcent that commands a proſpect of the whole peninſula, and is well ſupplied with rivulets of freſh and wholeſome water. Here, on a regular plan, he began to build a town, to which he gave the name of Hallifax, in honour of the nobleman who had the greateſt ſhare in founding the colony; and before the approach of winter above three hundred comfortable wooden houſes were built, the whole being ſurrounded by a ſtrong palliſade.

This colony, however, has by no means anſwered the ſanguine expectations of the projectors; for, notwithſtanding the ardour with which the intereſts of it were promoted by its noble patron, and the repeated indulgence it has reaped from the bounty of the legiſlature, the inhabitants have made little or no progreſs in agriculture: the fiſhery is altogether neglected, and the ſettlement entirely ſubſiſts on the ſums expended by the individuals of the army and navy, whoſe duty obliges them to reſide in this part of North-America.

The

An. 1748. The Frenchattempt to ſettle the iſland of Tobago.

The eſtabliſhment of ſuch a powerful colony in Nova Scotia could not fail of giving umbrage to the French in that neighbourhood, who, though they did not think proper to promulgate their jealouſy and diſguſt, nevertheleſs employed their emiſſaries clandeſtinely in ſtimulating and exciting the Indians to harraſs the coloniſts with hoſtilities, in ſuch a manner as ſhould effectually hinder them from extending their plantations, and perhaps induce them to abandon the ſettlement. Nor was this the only part of America in which the French court countenanced ſuch perfidious practices. More than ever convinced of the importance of a conſiderable navy, and an extenſive plantation-trade, they not only exerted uncommon induſtry in re-eſtabliſhing their marine, which had ſuffered ſo ſeverely during the war; but they reſolved, if poſſible, to extend their plantations in the Weſt-Indies, by ſettling the neutral iſlands, which we have already mentioned.

In the beginning of the year the governor of Barbadoes, having received intelligence that the French had begun to ſettle the iſland of Tobago, ſent thither captain Tyrrel in a frigate to learn the particulars; and that officer found above three hundred men already landed, ſecured by two batteries and two ſhips of war, and in daily expectation of a further reinforcement from the marquis de Caylus, governor of Martinique; who had publiſhed an ordonnance, authorizing the ſubjects of the French king to ſettle the iſland of Tobago, and promiſing to defend them from the attempts of all their enemies. This aſſurance was in anſwer to a proclamation iſſued by Mr. Greenville, governor of Barbadoes,

badoes, and ſtuck up in different parts of the iſland, commanding all the inhabitants to remove in thirty days, on pain of undergoing military execution. An. 1748.

Captain Tyrrel, with a ſpirit that became a commander in the Britiſh navy, gave the French officers to underſtand, that his moſt chriſtian majeſty had no right to ſettle the iſland, which was declared neutral by treaties; and that, if they would not deſiſt, he ſhould be obliged to employ force in driving them from their new ſettlement. Night coming on, and Mr. Tyrrel's ſhip falling to leeward, the two French captains ſeized that opportunity of ſailing to Martinique; and the next day the Engliſh commander returned to Barbadoes, having no power to commit hoſtilities.

Theſe tidings, with a copy of the French governor's ordonnance, were no ſooner tranſmitted to the miniſtry than they diſpatched a courier to the Engliſh envoy at Paris, with directions to make repreſentations to the court of Verſailles on this ſubject. The miniſtry of France, knowing they were in no condition to ſupport the conſequences of an immediate rupture, and underſtanding how much the merchants and people of Great-Britain were alarmed and incenſed at their attempts to poſſeſs theſe iſlands, thought proper to diſown the proceedings of the marquis de Caylus, and to grant the ſatisfaction that was demanded, by ſending him orders to diſcontinue the ſettlement, and evacuate the iſland of Tobago. At the ſame time, however, that the court of Verſailles made this ſacrifice for the ſatisfaction of England, the marquis de Puyſieux, the French miniſter, obſerved to the Engliſh reſident, that France was undoubtedly in poſ-

An. 1748. poſſeſſion of that iſland towards the middle of the laſt century. He ought in candour to have added, That although Louis XIV. made a conqueſt of this iſland from the Hollanders, during his war with that republic, it was reſtored to them by the treaty of Nimeguen; and ſince that time France could not have the leaſt ſhadow of a claim to number it among her ſettlements.

It was before this anſwer could be obtained from the court of Verſailles, that the motion, of which we have already taken notice, was made in the houſe of commons, relating to the ſubject of the neutral iſlands; a motion diſcouraged by the court, and defeated by the majority.

Rejoicings for the peace. The peace of Aix-la-Chapelle was celebrated by fire-works, illuminations, and rejoicings, in which the Engliſh, French, and Dutch, ſeemed to diſplay a ſpirit of emulation, in point of taſte and magnificence; and, in all probability, theſe three powers were ſincerely pleaſed at the ceſſation of the war. England enjoyed a reſpite from intolerable ſupplies, exorbitant inſurance, and interrupted commerce: Holland was delivered from the brink of a French invaſion; and France had obtained a breathing time for re-eſtabliſhing her naval power, exerting that ſpirit of intrigue by dint of which ſhe hath often embroiled her neighbours, and executing plans of inſenſible encroachment, which might prove more advantageous than the progreſs of open hoſtilities.

In the affair of Tobago the French king had manifeſted his inclination to avoid immediate diſputes with England; and he exhibited another proof of the ſame diſpoſition in his behaviour to the

the prince pretender, who had excited ſuch a dangerous rebellion in the iſland of Great-Britain. An. 1748.

Among thoſe princes and powers who excepted againſt different articles of the treaty at Aix-la-Chapelle, the Chevalier de St. George, foreſeeing that none of the plenipotentiaries would receive his proteſt, employed his agents to fix it up in the public places of Aix-la-Chapelle; a precaution of very little ſervice to his cauſe, which all the ſtates of Chriſtendom ſeemed now to have abandoned. So little was the intereſt of his family conſidered in this negotiation, that the contracting powers agreed, without reſerve, to a literal inſertion of the fifth article of the quadruple alliance; by which it was ſtipulated, That neither the pretender nor any of his deſcendants ſhould be allowed to reſide within the territories belonging to any of the ſubſcribing parties. At the ſame time the plenipotentiaries of France promiſed to thoſe of Great Britain, that prince Edward ſhould be immediately obliged to quit the dominions of his moſt chriſtian majeſty. Notice of this agreement was accordingly given by the court of Verſailles to the young adventurer; and as he had declared he would never return to Italy, Monſ. de Courteille, the French envoy to the cantons of Switzerland, was directed by his ſovereign to demand an aſylum for prince Edward in the city of Fribourg. The regency having complied in this particular with the earneſt requeſt of his moſt chriſtian majeſty, Mr. Burnaby, the Britiſh miniſter to the Helvetic Body, took the alarm, and preſented the magiſtracy of Fribourg with a remonſtrance, couched in ſuch terms as gave offence to that regency, and drew

The pretender's eldeſt ſon arreſted at Paris.

An. 1748. upon him a ſevere anſwer. In vain had the French king exerted his influence in procuring this retreat for the young pretender, who, being preſſed with repeated meſſages to withdraw, perſiſted in refuſing to quit the place, to which he had been ſo cordially invited by his couſin the king of France; and where (he ſaid) that monarch had ſolemnly promiſed, on the word of a king, that he would never forſake him in his diſtreſs, nor abandon the intereſts of his family.

Louis was not a little perplexed at this obſtinacy of prince Edward, which was the more vexatious as that youth appeared to be the darling of the Pariſians; who not only admired him for his accompliſhments, and pitied him for his ſufferings, but alſo revered him as a young hero lineally deſcended from their renowned fourth Henry.

At length the two Engliſh noblemen arriving at Paris, as hoſtages for performance of the treaty, and ſeeing him appear at all public ſpectacles, complained of this circumſtance as an inſult offered to their ſovereign, and even as an infringement of the treaty ſo lately concluded. The French king, after ſome heſitation between punctilio and convenience, reſolved to employ violence upon the perſon of this troubleſome ſtranger, ſince milder remonſtrances had not been able to influence his conduct: but this reſolution was not taken till the return of a courier whom he diſpatched to the Chevalier de St. George; who, being thus informed of his ſon's deportment, wrote a letter to him, laying ſtrong injunctions upon him to yield to the neceſſity of the times, and acquieſce with a good grace in the ſtipulations which his couſin of France

France had found it neceſſary to ſubſcribe, for the intereſt of his realm. An. 1748.

Edward, far from complying with this advice and injunction, ſignified his reſolution to remain in Paris; and even declared, that he would piſtol any man who ſhould preſume to lay violent hands on his perſon. In conſequence of this bold declaration, an extraordinary council was held at Verſailles, where it was determined to arreſt him without further delay, and the whole plan of this enterprize was finally adjuſted. The ſame evening, the prince entering the narrow lane that leads to the opera, the barrier was immediately ſhut, and the ſerjeant of the guard called "To arms." Then monſieur de Vaudreuil, exempt of the French guards, advancing to Edward, "Prince, (ſaid he) I arreſt you in the king's name, by virtue of this order." At that inſtant he was ſurrounded by four grenadiers, in order to prevent any miſchief he might have done with a caſe of pocket-piſtols which he always carried about with him; and a guard was placed on all the avenues and doors of the opera-houſe, leſt any tumult ſhould have enſued, among the populace. Theſe precautions being taken, Vaudreuil, with an eſcorte, conducted the priſoner through the garden of the Palais Royal to a houſe where the duke de Biron waited, with a coach and ſix, to convey him to the caſtle of Vincennes, whither he was immediately accompanied by a detachment from the regiment of French guards, under the command of that nobleman. He had not remained above three days in this confinement when he gave the French miniſtry to underſtand, that he would conform himſelf to the king's intentions; and

An. 1748. and was immediately enlarged, upon giving his word and honour that he would, without delay, retire from the dominions of France. Accordingly he ſet out in four days from Fountainbleau, attended by three officers, who conducted him as far as Pont-Beauvoiſin on the frontiers, where they took their leave of him, and returned to Verſailles. He proceeded for ſome time in the road to Chamberri; but ſoon returned into the French dominions, and, paſſing through Dauphine, repaired to Avignon, where he was received with extraordinary honours by the pope's legate.

In the mean time his arreſt excited great murmurings at Paris; the inhabitants of which blamed, without ſcruple, their king's conduct in this inſtance, as a ſcandalous breach of hoſpitality, as well as a mean proof of condeſcenſion to the king of England; and many ſevere paſquinades, relating to this tranſaction, were fixed up in the moſt public places of that metropolis.

Appearance of a rupture between Ruſſia and Sweden.

Although peace was now re-eſtabliſhed among the principal powers of the continent, yet another ſtorm ſeemed ready to burſt upon the northern parts of Europe, in a freſh rupture between Ruſſia and Sweden. Whether the Czarina had actually obtained information that the French faction meditated ſome revolution of government at Stockholm, or ſhe wanted a pretence for annexing Finland to her empire, certain it is, ſhe affected to apprehend that the prince-ſucceſſor of Sweden waited only for the deceaſe of the reigning king, who was very old and infirm, to change the form of government, and reſume that abſolute authority which ſome of the monarchs his predeceſſors had enjoyed.

enjoyed. She ſeemed to think, that a prince thus veſted with arbitrary power, and guided by the counſels of France and Pruſſia, with which Sweden had lately engaged in cloſe alliance, might become a very troubleſome and dangerous neighbour to her in the Baltic: ſhe therefore recruited her armies, repaired her fortifications, filled her magazines, ordered a ſtrong body of troops to advance towards the frontiers of Finland, and declared, in plain terms to the court of Stockholm, That if any ſtep ſhould be taken to alter the government, which ſhe had bound herſelf by treaty to maintain, her troops ſhould enter the territory of Sweden, and ſhe would act up to the ſpirit of her engagements. The Swediſh miniſtry, alarmed at theſe peremptory proceedings, had recourſe to their allies; and, in the mean time, made repeated declarations to the court of Peterſburg, That there was no deſign to make the leaſt innovation in the nature of their eſtabliſhed government: but little or no regard being paid to theſe repreſentations, they began to put the kingdom in a poſture of defence; and the old king gave the Czarina to underſtand, That if, notwithſtanding the ſatisfaction he had offered, her forces ſhould paſs the frontiers of Finland, he would conſider their march as an hoſtile invaſion, and employ the means which God had put in his power for the defence of his dominions. An. 1748.

This declaration, in all probability, did not produce ſuch effect as did the interpoſition of his Pruſſian majeſty, the moſt enterpriſing prince of his time, at the head of one hundred and fifty thouſand of the beſt troops that Germany ever trained. Interpoſition of his Pruſſian majeſty.

An. 1748. Perhaps he was not ſorry that the empreſs of Muſcovy furniſhed him with a plauſible pretence for maintaining ſuch a formidable army, after the peace of Europe had been aſcertained by a formal treaty, and all the ſurrounding ſtates had diminiſhed the number of their forces. He now wrote a letter to his uncle the king of Great Britain, complaining of the inſults and menaces which had been offered by the Czarina to Sweden; declaring, that he was bound by a defenſive alliance, to which France had acceded, to defend the government at preſent eſtabliſhed in Sweden; and that he would not ſit ſtill and tamely ſee that kingdom attacked by any power whatſoever, without acting up to his engagements: finally, he intreated his Britannic majeſty to interpoſe his good offices, in conjunction with France and him, to compromiſe the diſputes which threatened to embroil the northern parts of Europe.

By this time the Ruſſian army had approached the frontiers of Finland: the Swedes had aſſembled their troops, repleniſhed their magazines, and repaired their marine; and the king of Denmark, jealous of the Czarina's deſigns, with regard to the dutchy of Sleſwic, which was conteſted with him by the prince ſucceſſor of Ruſſia, kept his army and navy on the moſt reſpectable footing.

At this critical juncture the courts of London, Verſailles, and Berlin, co-operated ſo effectually by remonſtrances and declarations at Peterſburg and Stockholm, that the empreſs of Ruſſia thought proper to own herſelf ſatisfied, and all thoſe clouds of trouble were immediately diſperſed. Yet, in all probability, her real aim was diſappointed; and,

however ſhe might diſſemble her ſentiments, ſhe never heartily forgave the king of Pruſſia for the ſhare he had in this tranſaction. That monarch, without relaxing in his attention to the ſupport of a very formidable military power, exerted very extraordinary endeavours in cultivating the civil intereſts of his country. He reformed the laws of Brandenburg, and reſcued the adminiſtration of juſtice from the frauds of chicanery. He encouraged the arts of agriculture and manufacture; and even laid the foundation of naval commerce, by eſtabliſhing an Eaſt India company in the port of Embden. An. 1748.

Internal meaſures taken by the French miniſtry.

Nor did the French miniſtry neglect any meaſure that might contribute to repair the damage which the kingdom had ſuſtained in the courſe of the war. One half of the army was diſbanded: the ſevere impoſition of the tenth penny was ſuſpended by the king's edict; a ſcheme of œconomy propoſed, with reſpect to the finances; and the utmoſt diligence uſed in procuring materials, as well as workmen, for ſhip building, that the navy of France might ſpeedily retrieve its former importance.

In the midſt of theſe truly patriotic ſchemes, the court of Verſailles betrayed a littleneſs of genius, and a ſpirit of tyranny, joined to fanaticiſm, in quarrelling with the parliament about ſuperſtitious forms of religion. The ſacraments had been denied to a certain perſon on his death-bed, becauſe he refuſed to ſubſcribe the bull Unigenitus. The nephew of the defunct preferred a complaint to the parliament, whoſe province it was to take cognizance of the affair: a deputation of that body attended the

An. 1748. king with the report of their reſolutions; and his majeſty commanded them to ſuſpend all proceedings relating to a matter of ſuch conſequence, concerning which he would take an opportunity of ſignifying his royal pleaſure. This interpoſition was the ſource of diſputes between the crown and parliament, which had like to have filled the whole kingdom with inteſtine troubles.

Conduct of divers European powers.

At Vienna the Empreſs queen was not more ſollicitous in promoting the trade and internal manufactures of her dominions, by ſumptuary regulations, neceſſary reſtrictions on foreign ſuperfluities, and proper encouragements of commerce, by opening her ports in the Adriatic, than ſhe was careful and provident in reforming the œconomy of her finances, maintaining a reſpectable body of forces, and guarding, by defenſive alliances, againſt the enterprizes of his Pruſſian majeſty, on whoſe military power ſhe looked with jealouſy and diſtruſt.

In Holland all the authority and influence of the Stadtholder were ſcarce ſufficient to allay the ferments excited among the people, by the proviſional taxation which had ſucceeded the abolition of the pachters, and was indeed very grievous to the ſubject. As this was no more than a temporary expedient, the prince of Orange propoſed a more equitable plan, which was approved by the States, and eſtabliſhed with great difficulty.

In Italy the ſyſtem of politics ſeemed to change its complexion. The king of Sardinia effected a match between one of the infantas of Spain and the prince of Piedmont; and whether irritated by the conduct of the Auſtrians in the laſt war, or appre-

apprehenſive of ſuch a powerful neighbour in the Milaneſe, he engaged with the kings of France and Spain in a defenſive alliance, comprehending the king of the Two Sicilies, the republic of Genoa, and the dukes of Modena and Parma. An. 1748.

His moſt Catholic Majeſty, ſincerely diſpoſed to cultivate the arts of peace, and encourage every meaſure that could contribute to the advantage of his country, was no ſooner releaſed from the embarraſſments of war, than he began to execute plans of internal œconomy; to reduce unneceſſary penſions, diſcharge the debts contracted in the war, repleniſh his arſenals, augment his navy, promote manufactures, and encourage an active commerce by ſea, the benefits of which the kingdom of Spain had not known ſince the firſt diſcovery and conqueſt of the Weſt Indies.

Inſolence of the Barbary corſairs.

The preparations for refitting and increaſing the navy of Spain were carried on with ſuch extraordinary vigour, that other nations believed an expedition was intended againſt the corſairs of Algiers, who had for ſome time grievouſly infeſted the trade and coaſts of the Mediterranean. The exiſtence of this and other predatory republics, which intirely ſubſiſt upon piracy and rapine, petty ſtates of barbarous ruffians, maintained, as it were, in the midſt of powerful nations, which they inſult with impunity, and of which they even exact an annual contribution, is a flagrant reproach upon Chriſtendom; a reproach the greater, as it is founded upon a low, ſelfiſh, illiberal maxim of policy.

All the powers that border on the Mediterranean, except France and Tuſcany, are at perpetual war with the Moors of Barbary, and, for that rea-

An. 1748. ſon, obliged to employ foreign ſhips for the tranſportation of their merchandize. This employment naturally devolves to thoſe nations whoſe veſſels are in no danger from the depredations of the Barbarians; namely, the ſubjects of the Maritime Powers, who, for this puny advantage, not only tolerate the piratical ſtates of Barbary, but even ſupply them with arms and ammunition, ſollicit their paſſes, and purchaſe their forbearance with annual preſents, which are, in effect, equivalent to a tribute: whereas, by one vigorous exertion of their power, they might deſtroy all their ſhips, lay their towns in aſhes, and totally extirpate thoſe pernicious broods of deſperate banditti. Even all the condeſcenſion of thoſe who diſgrace themſelves with the title of allies to theſe miſcreants, is not always ſufficient to reſtrain them from acts of cruelty and rapine.

At this very period four cruiſers from Algiers made a capture of an Engliſh packet-boat, in her voyage from Liſbon, and conveyed her to their city, where ſhe was plundered of money and effects to the amount of one hundred thouſand pounds, and afterwards diſmiſſed. In conſequence of this outrage, commodore Keppel was ſent with ſeven ſhips of war to demand ſatisfaction, as well as to compromiſe certain differences which had ariſen on account of arrears claimed of the Engliſh by the dey of Algiers. The Muſſelman frankly owned, that the money, having been divided among the captors, could not poſſibly be refunded. The commodore returned to Gibraltar; and, in the ſequel, an Algerine ambaſſador arrived at London, with ſome preſents of wild beaſts for his Britannick majeſty.

jeſty. This tranſaction was ſucceeded by another injurious affront, offered by the governor or alcayde of Tetuan to Mr. Latton, an Engliſh ambaſſador, ſent thither to redeem the Britiſh ſubjects, who had been many years enſlaved in the dominions of the king of Morocco. An. 1748.

A revolution having lately happened in this empire, Muley Abdallah, the reigning ruffian, inſiſted upon the ambaſſador's paying a pretended ballance for the ranſom of the captives, as well as depoſiting a conſiderable ſum, which had already been paid to a deceaſed baſhaw; alledging, that as he (the emperor) received no part of it, the payment was illegal. Mr. Latton refuſing to comply with this arbitrary demand, his houſe was ſurrounded by a detachment of ſoldiers, who violently dragged his ſecretary from his preſence, and threw him into a diſmal ſubterranean dungeon, where he continued twenty days. The Engliſh ſlaves, to the number of twenty-ſeven, were condemned to the ſame fate: the ambaſſador himſelf was degraded from his character, deprived of his allowance, and ſequeſtered from all communication. All the letters directed to him were intercepted, and interpreted to the alcayde: two negro-porters were intruſted with the keys of all his apartments, and a couple of ſoldiers poſted at his chamber-door: nay, this Mooriſh governor threatened to load him with irons, and violently ſeized part of the preſents deſigned by his Britannic majeſty for the emperor. Finally, finding that neither Mr. Latton nor the governor of Gibraltar, to whom he had written, would depoſit the money, without freſh inſtructions from the court of London, the

An. 1748. Barbarian thought proper to relax his ſeverity: the priſoners were enlarged, the reſtrictions removed from the perſon of the ambaſſador, and, after all theſe indignities offered to the honour of the Britiſh nation, the ballance was paid, and the affair quietly adjuſted.

Britain, mean while, was altogether barren of events which might deſerve a place in a general hiſtory. Commerce and manufacture flouriſhed again, to ſuch a degree of encreaſe as had never been known in the iſland: but this advantage was attended with an irreſiſtible tide of luxury and exceſs, which flowed through all degrees of the people, breaking down all the mounds of civil polity, and opening a way for licence and immorality. The highways were infeſted with rapine and aſſaſſination; the cities teemed with the brutal votaries of lewdneſs, intemperance, and profligacy; and the whole land was overſpread with a ſucceſſion of tumult, riot, and inſurrection, excited in different parts of the kingdom by the erection of new turnpikes, which the legiſlature judged neceſſary for the convenience of inland carriage. In order to quell theſe diſturbances, recourſe was had to the military power: ſeveral individuals were ſlain, and ſome were executed as examples. This was, at beſt, but a violent remedy, which ought never to be applied among a free people, except in caſes of the utmoſt emergency; and theſe can hardly ever happen in a country governed by good laws, punctually adminiſtred: for there muſt be ſome fundamental flaw in that conſtitution, which the power of civil magiſtracy cannot preſerve from anarchy and internal diſſolution.

Diſturbances in England.

In

In the month of November the ſeſſion of parliament was opened, with a ſpeech from the throne; in which his majeſty expreſſed a particular pleaſure in meeting them at a time, when the perfect reeſtabliſhment of a general peace had reſtored to his people the bleſſings of quiet and tranquillity. He ſaid, the good effects of theſe already appeared in the flouriſhing condition of national commerce, and in the riſe of public credit, which were the foundations of ſtrength and proſperity to theſe kingdoms. He declared, That, during the ſummer, he had uſed every opportunity of cementing and ſecuring the peace; That it was his firm reſolution to do every thing in his power for the preſervation of it, and religiouſly adhere to the engagements into which he had entered. Finally, he took notice of the good diſpoſition he had found in the other contracting parties to the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, to cheriſh the public tranquillity of Europe: and he earneſtly recommended to the two houſes the maintenance of a ſtrong naval power, as the bulwark of national ſecurity. When the motion was made for an addreſs of thanks in the houſe of commons, the firſt paragraph of his majeſty's ſpeech furniſhed the oppoſition with a handle to declaim againſt the late treaty. Sir John Hynd Cotton obſerved, That the peace could not be properly ſtiled compleat, as nothing had been ſtipulated with reſpect to the article of "no ſearch;" alluding to the interruption our commerce had ſuſtained from the Spaniards in the Weſt-Indies: a ſtipulation, without which both houſes of parliament had formerly voted that there ſhould be no peace with that kingdom.

An. 1748.

Seſſion of parliament opened.

In

An. 1749. In the preſent conjuncture of affairs, ſuch an objection ſavoured rather of party than of patriotiſm; and indeed Sir John declared, that the remarks he made upon this occaſion were rather in diſcharge of the duty he owed to his country, than in hope of ſeeing his ſentiments eſpouſed by the majority.

Some ſharp altercation was uſed in the debate which aroſe on this ſubject; and many ſevere invectives were levelled at thoſe who negotiated, as well as thoſe who approved and confirmed the treaty. But Mr. Pelham, who ſuſtained the whole weight of the debate on the ſide of the adminiſtration, anſwered every objection with equal candour and ability: and if he failed in proving that the terms of peace were as favourable as could be expected, conſidering the unfortunate events of the war, and the ſituation of the contending powers, he at leaſt demonſtrated, that it would be the intereſt of the kingdom to acquieſce for the preſent in the treaty which had been concluded, and endeavour to remedy its imperfections by ſubſequent conventions, amicably opened among thoſe powers between whom any cauſe of diſpute remained. With reſpect to the vote of both houſes, mentioned by Sir John Hynd Cotton, he declared that he had never approved of that ſtep, when it was firſt taken; or if he had, times and circumſtances, which could not be foreſeen, would have juſtified his deviating from it in the re-eſtabliſhment of peace. He reminded them, that a parliament of Great Britain had once voted "no peace, while any part of the Weſt Indies ſhould remain in poſſeſſion of the Spaniſh king," yet a train of incidents, which they could not poſſibly foreſee, afterwards

wards rendered it expedient to adopt a peace, without inſiſting upon the accompliſhment of that condition. An, 1749.

In a word, we muſt own, that, in the majority of debates excited in the courſe of this ſeſſion, the miniſtry derived their triumphs from the force of reaſon, as well as from the weight of influence. We ſhall always, however, except the efforts that were made for reducing the number of land-forces to fifteen thouſand, and maintaining a greater number of ſeamen than the miniſtry propoſed. On theſe conſtitutional points the earl of Egmont, and the other chiefs of the oppoſition, expatiated with all the energy of eloquence; which, however, was fruſtrated by the power of ſuperior number. Ten thouſand ſeamen were voted for the ſervice of the enſuing year, notwithſtanding his majeſty's injunction to maintain a conſiderable navy; and the number of land-forces continued at eighteen thouſand eight hundred and fifty-ſeven. The ſums granted for making good his majeſty's engagements with the electors of Bavaria and Mentz, and the duke of Brunſwic-Wolfenbuttle, amounted to fifty-three thouſand two hundred and twenty-five pounds ſterling. The ſervices done by the colonies in North America, during the war, were gratified with the ſum of one hundred twenty-two thouſand two hundred forty-ſix pounds. The expence incurred by the new colony of Nova Scotia exceeded ſeventy-ſix thouſand pounds. A ſmall ſum was voted for the improvemont of Georgia; and ten thouſand pounds were granted towards the ſupport of the Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa. Subjects of debate.

The

An. 1749. The ſum total granted in this ſeſſion aroſe to four millions one hundred forty-one thouſand ſix-hundred ſixty-one pounds nine ſhillings and eleven-pence half penny, to be raiſed by the land-tax, at three ſhillings in the pound; the malt, and other duties, the ſurplus of divers impoſitions remaining in the Bank and Exchequer; one million by annuities, at three per cent. charged on the ſinking fund, until redeemed by parliament; and nine hundred thouſand pounds out of the exceſs or overplus of monies denominated the ſinking fund.

Scheme for reducing the intereſt of the national debt.

But the capital meaſure, which diſtinguiſhed this ſeſſion of parliament, was the reduction of the intereſt on the public funds; a ſcheme which was planned and executed by the miniſter, without any national diſturbance or diſquiet, to the aſtoniſhment of all Europe; the different nations of which could not comprehend how it would be poſſible for the government, at the cloſe of a long expenſive war, which had ſo conſiderably drained the country, and augmented the enormous burthen of a national debt, to find money for paying off ſuch of the public creditors as might chooſe to receive their principal, rather than ſubmit to a reduction of the intereſt. It was not very much for the honour of the oppoſition, that ſome of its leading members endeavoured to impede this great machine of civil œconomy, by taking opportunities of affirming in parliament, in oppoſition to his majeſty's ſpeech, that the nation, far from being in a flouriſhing condition, was almoſt intirely exhauſted; that commerce drooped and declined; that public credit ſtood tottering on the brink of ruin; and that all the treaties lately concluded among the different powers

powers of Europe, were, in effect, diſadvantageous and prejudicial to the intereſts of Great Britain. In anſwer to theſe aſſertions, Mr. Pelham undertook to prove, from the regiſter of exports and imports, that the commerce of the kingdom was more extenſive at this than at any former period; and that the public credit was ſtrong enough to admit of an experiment, which he would not preſume to hazard, except upon a moral certainty of its being firmly rooted, beyond the power of accident and faction to ſhake or overturn. He declared, that his deſign of reducing the intereſt upon the funds, was the reſult of the love he bore his country, and an opinion that it was the duty of the ſervants of the crown to eaſe the burthens of the people. He ſaid, he had conferred on this ſubject with perſons of the moſt approved knowledge, and undoubted experience; and choſe to promulgate the method propoſed for alleviating the load of the national debt, that the public, in knowing the particulars of the ſcheme, might have time to conſider them at leiſure, and ſtart ſuch objections as ſhould occur to their reflection, before it might be too late to adopt amendments. He obſerved, that nothing could more clearly demonſtrate the vigour of public credit, and the augmentation of national commerce, than the price of ſtock, which had within three years riſen to a very conſiderable increaſe; and the duties on imports, which in nine months had added one million to the ſinking fond, notwithſtanding a very extraordinary ſum which had been payed as bounties for exported corn. He expreſſed great tenderneſs and regard for the intereſts of thoſe who had advanced An. 1749.

their

An. 1750. their money for the ſervice of the government; declaring that his aim was to contrive a fair, honeſt, and equitable method for leſſening the national incumbrances, by lowering the intereſt, conformable to parliamentary faith, and agreeable to the rules of eternal juſtice. His plan was accordingly communicated, canvaſſed, and approved in the houſe of commons, and an act paſſed for reducing the intereſt of the funds which conſtitute the intereſt of the national debt.

The bill paſſes through both houſes.

The reſolutions of the commons on this head were printed by authority in the London Gazette, importing, That thoſe who were, or ſhould be, proprietors of any part of the public debt, redeemable by law, incurred before Michaelmas, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-nine, carrying an intereſt of four per centum per annum, who ſhould, on or before the twenty-eighth day of February in that year, ſubſcribe their names, ſignifying their conſent to accept of an intereſt of three pounds per centum, to commence from the twenty-fifth day of December in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſeven, ſubject to the ſame proviſions, notices and clauſes, of redemption, to which their reſpective ſums, at four per centum, were then liable; ſhould, in lieu of their preſent intereſt, be intitled to four per centum, till the twenty fifth day of December in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty; and after that day, to three pounds ten ſhillings per centum per annum, till the twenty-fifth day of December one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſeven; and no part of that debt, except what was due to the Eaſt India company, ſhould be redeem-

able

able to this period: That if any part of the national debt, incurred before laſt Michaelmas, redeemable by law, and carrying an intereſt of four per centum, ſhould remain unſubſcribed on or before the thirtieth day of May, the government ſhould pay off the principal. For this purpoſe his majeſty was enabled to borrow of any perſon or perſons, bodies politic or corporate, any ſum or ſums of money, not exceeding that part of the national debt which might remain unſubſcribed, to be charged on the ſinking fund, upon any terms not exceeding the rate of intereſt in the aforegoing propoſal. An. 1750.

All the duties appropriated to the payment of the intereſt were ſtill continued, and the ſurplus of theſe incorporated with the ſinking fund for the diſcharge of the principal. Books were opened for the ſubſcription at the Exchequer, the bank of England, and the South-ſea houſe; and copies of theſe reſolutions tranſmitted to the directors of all the monied corporations.

In purſuance of this act, for the reduction of the intereſt, the greater part of the creditors complied with the terms propoſed, and ſubſcribed their reſpective annuities before the end of February; but the three great companies at firſt kept aloof, and refuſed to ſubſcribe any part of their capital.

About the middle of March the commons ordered the proper officers to lay before them an account of the ſums which had been ſubſcribed, and theſe were taken into conſideration by a committee of the whole houſe. It was then that Mr. Pelham, as chancellor of the Exchequer, obſerved, That beſides the debts due to the three great companies

An. 1750. panies in their corporate capacity, all the reſt carrying four per centum intereſt, had been ſubſcribed, except about eight or nine millions, the proprietors of which had forfeitd the favour deſigned them by parliament: but as many of theſe had been miſled by evil counſellors, who perhaps were more intent on diſtreſſing the government, than ſollicitous to ſerve their friends; and as many were foreigners reſiding beyond ſea, who had not time to take proper advice, and give the neceſſary inſtructions; and as theſe could not be poſſibly diſtinguiſhed from ſuch as refuſed to ſubſcribe from meer obſtinacy or diſſaffection, it might be thought cruel to take the moſt rigorous advantage of the forfeiture they had incurred. With reſpect to the proprietors of the ſtock or capital belonging to the three great companies, he aſſerted, that many of them would willingly have ſubſcribed their properties within the time limited; but were neceſſarily excluded by the majority on the ballot: and as it was equally impoſſible to know thoſe who were againſt the queſtion on the ballot, he thought that ſome tenderneſs was due even to the proprietors of thoſe three companies: his opinion therefore was, that they and the complying annuitants ſhould be indulged with further time to compleat their ſubſcription; but, in order to preſerve the authority of parliament, and the reſpect due to that auguſt aſſembly, they ought not to be gratified with ſuch advantageous terms as were allowed to the annuitants, who at firſt chearfully complied with the propoſals offered by the legiſlature. For theſe reaſons he propoſed, That although the term of ſubſcribing ſhould be protracted till the thirtieth day

day of May, the encouragement of three pounds ten ſhillings per centum per annum ſhould not be continued to the ſecond ſubſcribers longer than till the fifth day of December, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-five. The propoſal being approved, a bill was framed for this purpoſe, as well as for redeeming ſuch annuities as ſhould not be ſubſcribed. It paſſed through both houſes, and was enacted into a law, after having received an additional clauſe, impowering the Eaſt India company, in caſe they ſhould ſubſcribe all their ſtock bearing an intereſt of four per centum, to borrow, with the conſent of the board of treaſury, any ſums not exceeding four millions two hundred thouſand pounds, after the ſeveral rates of intereſt before propoſed to be paid by the public, and one million more at three per centum per annum. They were alſo veſted with a power to raiſe money by bonds, as formerly; yet ſo as the whole, including the annuities, ſhould not exceed what they were by former acts impowered to borrow. An. 1758.

The objections to the execution of this project, which by many were deemed inſurmountable, intirely vaniſhed before the fortitude, perſeverance, and caution of the miniſter; who had ſecured, among the moneyed men of the nation, the promiſe of ſuch ſums as would have been ſufficient to pay off the capital belonging to thoſe creditors who might refuſe to accept the intereſt thus reduced.

The ſecond ſubſcription had the deſired effect. The three great companies acquieſced, and their example was followed by the other ſcrupulous annuitants

An. 1750. nuitants: the national burthen was comfortably lightened, and the ſinking fund conſiderably increaſed, without producing the leaſt perplexity or diſturbance in the commonwealth; a circumſtance that could not fail to excite the admiration and envy of all Chriſtendom.

New mutiny-bill. The mutiny-bill for the enſuing year was mitigated with an eſſential alteration, relating to the oath of ſecrecy impoſed upon the members of every court-martial, who were now releaſed from this reſerve, if required to give evidence, by due courſe of law, in any court of judicature; and whereas, by the former mutiny-bill, a general was impowered to order the reviſal of any ſentence by a court-martial as often as he pleaſed, and, on that pretence, to keep in confinement a man who had been acquitted upon a fair trial; it was now enacted, That no ſentence pronounced by any court-martial, and ſigned by the preſident, ſhould be more than once liable to reviſal. Colonel George Townſhend, ſon of the lord viſcount Townſhend, who had equally diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his civil and military accompliſhments, propoſed another clauſe for preventing any non-commiſſioned officer's being broke, or reduced into the ranks; or any ſoldier's being puniſhed, but by the ſentence of a court martial. He gave the houſe to underſtand, that certain perſons attended at the door, who, from the ſtation of non-commiſſioned officers, had been broke, and reduced into the ranks, without trial or any cauſe aſſigned; and he expatiated not only upon the iniquity of ſuch proceedings, but alſo upon the danger of leaving ſuch arbitrary power in the hands of any individual officer. A warm

warm debate was the conſequence of this motion, which however was over-ruled by the majority. An. 1750.

A bill for encouragingthe import of iron from America.

Among other regulations made in the courſe of this ſeſſion, for the encouragement of the Britiſh manufactures, a large duty was laid upon Iriſh ſail-cloth, which, being ſold at an under-price, was found to interfere with the ſame ſpecies of commodity fabricated in the iſland of Great Britain; and, for the further benefit of this laſt, the bounty upon the exportation of it, which had been deducted from a defective fund, was now made payable out of the cuſtoms. This meaſure, however, was not of ſuch importance to the nation as the act which they paſſed for encouraging the importation of pig and bar iron from the Britiſh colonies in North America.

Every well-wiſher to his country reflected with concern on the nature of the Britiſh trade with Sweden, from which kingdom the ſubjects of his Britannic majeſty imported more iron and ſteel than it ſupplied for all the other countries in Europe. For this article they payed a very great ballance in ready money, which the Swedes again expended in purchaſing from the French, and other mercantile powers, thoſe neceſſaries and ſuperfluities with which they might have been as cheaply furniſhed by Great Britain. In the mean time, the Engliſh colonies in America were reſtricted by ſevere duties from making advantage of their own produce, in exchanging their iron for ſuch commodities as they were under the neceſſity of procuring from their mother-country. Such reſtriction was not only a cruel grievance upon our own ſettlements, but alſo attended with manifeſt preju-

An. 1750. dice to the intereſt of Great Britain, annually drained of great ſums, in favour of an ungrateful nation from which no part of them returned; whereas the iron imported from America muſt of neceſſity come in exchange for our own manufactures.

The commons having appointed a day for taking this affair into conſideration, carefully examined into the ſtate of the Britiſh commerce carried on with Sweden, as well as into the accounts of iron imported from the plantations in America; and the committee of the whole houſe having reſolved, That the duties on American pig and bar iron ſhould be removed, a bill was brought in for that purpoſe, containing a clauſe, however, to prevent his majeſty's ſubjects from making ſteel, and eſtabliſhing mills for ſlitting and rolling iron within the Britiſh colonies of America; this precaution being taken, that the coloniſts might not interfere with the manufactures of their mother-country.

The moſt remarkable circumſtance attending the progreſs of this bill, which made its way thro' both houſes, and obtained the royal aſſent, was the number of contradictory petitions in favour and in prejudice of it, while it remained under conſideration. The tanners of leather, in and about the town of Sheffield in Yorkſhire, repreſented, That if the bill ſhould paſs, the Engliſh iron would be underſold; conſequently a great number of furnaces and forges would be diſcontinued: in that caſe the woods, uſed for fuel, would ſtand uncut, and the tanners be deprived of oak-bark ſufficient for the continuance and ſupport of their occupation. They nevertheleſs owned, that ſhould the

duty be removed from pig iron only, no ſuch conſequence could be apprehended; becauſe, ſhould the number of furnaces be leſſened, that of forges would be increaſed. This was likewiſe the plea urged in divers remonſtrances by maſters of iron-works, gentlemen, and freeholders, who had tracts of woodland in their poſſeſſion. The owners, proprietors, and farmers of furnaces and iron-forges, belonging to Sheffield and its neighbourhood, enlarged upon the great expence they had incurred in erecting and ſupporting iron-works, by means of which great numbers of his majeſty's ſubjects were comfortably ſupported. They expreſſed their apprehenſion, that ſhould the bill paſs into a law, it could not in any degree leſſen the conſumption of Swediſh iron, which was uſed for purpoſes which neither the American nor Britiſh iron would anſwer: but that the propoſed encouragement, conſidering the plenty and cheapneſs of wood in America, would enable the colonies to underſell the Britiſh iron; a branch of traffic which would be totally deſtroyed, to the ruin of many thouſand labourers, who would be compelled to ſeek their livelihood in foreign countries. They likewiſe ſuggeſted, that if all the iron manufacturers of Great Britain ſhould be obliged to depend upon a ſupply of iron from the plantations, which muſt ever be rendered precarious by the hazard of the ſeas and the enemy, the manufactures would probably decay for want of materials, and many thouſand families be reduced to want and miſery. On the other hand, the ironmongers and ſmiths belonging to the flouriſhing town of Birmingham in Warwickſhire, preſented a petition, declaring, that An. 1750.

An. 1750. the bill would be of great benefit to the trade of the nation, as it would enable the coloniſts to make larger returns of their own produce, and encourage them to take a greater quantity of the Britiſh manufactures. They affirmed, that all the iron-works in the iſland of Great Britain did not ſupply half the quantity of that metal ſufficient to carry on the manufacture; that if this deficiency could be ſupplied from the colonies in America, the importation would ceaſe, and conſiderable ſums of money be ſaved to the nation. They obſerved, that the importation of iron from America could no more affect the iron-works and freeholders of the kingdom, than the like quantity imported from any other country: but they prayed, that the people of America might be reſtrained from erecting ſlitting or rolling mills, or forges for plating iron, as they would interfere with the manufactures of Great Britain.

Many remonſtrances to the ſame effect were preſented from different parts of the kingdom; and it appeared, upon the moſt exact inquiry, that the encouragement of American iron would prove extremely beneficial to the kingdom, as it had been found, upon trial, applicable to all the uſes of Swediſh iron, and as good in every reſpect as the produce of that country.

Erection of the Britiſh herring fiſhery.

The next commercial improvement, of which we ſhall take notice, was the bill for the encouragement of the Britiſh white-herring and cod fiſheries. This was likewiſe the reſult of mature deliberation, importing, That a bounty of thirty ſhillings per ton ſhould be granted, and payed out of the cuſtoms, to all new veſſels from twenty to four-

fourſcore tons burthen, which ſhould be built for that purpoſe, and actually employed in the fiſhery: That a ſociety ſhould be incorporated, under the name of the free Britiſh fiſhery, by a charter, not excluſive, with power to raiſe a capital not exceeding five hundred thouſand pounds; and that three pounds ten ſhillings per centum per annum ſhould be granted and payed out of the cuſtoms to the proprietors for fourteen years, for ſo much of the capital as ſhould be actually employed in the ſaid fiſheries. Correſponding chambers were propoſed to be erected in remote parts of North Britain, for taking in ſubſcriptions, and proſecuting the trade, under the directions of the company at London; and the nation in general ſeemed eager to diſpute this branch of commerce with the ſubjects of Holland, whom they conſidered as ungrateful interlopers. In the houſe of peers, however, the bill met with a formidable oppoſition from the earl of Winchelſea and lord Sandys, who juſtly obſerved, That it was a crude indigeſted ſcheme, which, in the execution, would never anſwer the expectations of the people: That in contending with the Dutch, who are the patterns of unwearied induſtry, and the moſt rigid œconomy, nothing could be more abſurd than a joint ſtock company, which is always clogged with extraordinary expence; and the reſolution of fitting out veſſels at the port of London, where all ſorts of materials, labour, and ſeamen, are ſo much dearer than in any other part of the united kingdom, excluſive of the great diſtance and dangerous voyage between the metropolis and the Sound of Braſſa in Shetland, the rendezvous at which all the herring-buſſes were An. 1750.

An. 1750. to aſſemble in the beginning of the fiſhing ſeaſon. They likewiſe took notice of the heavy duty on ſalt, uſed in curing the fiſh for ſale, and the beef for proviſion to the mariners; a circumſtance of itſelf ſufficient to diſcourage adventurers from embarking in a commerce which, at beſt, yields but very ſlender profits to the trader in particular, how important ſoever it might prove to the community in general. Theſe objections were anſwered by the duke of Argyle and the earl of Granville, who ſeemed to think that this branch of trade could not be fairly ſet on foot, without ſuch a conſiderable ſum of money as no ſingle individual would care to advance; that a joint-ſtock company would be able to proſecute the fiſhery at a ſmaller expence than that which particular traders muſt neceſſarily incur: that the preſent ſpirit of the nation, which was eagerly bent upon trying the experiment, ought not to be baulked by delay, leſt it ſhould evaporate; and that though the plan was not unexceptionable, the defects of it might in the ſequel be remedied by the legiſlature. In a word, the bill was adopted by the majority, with a ſmall amendment in the title, which produced ſome diſquiets in the lower houſe: but this diſpute was compromiſed, and it was enacted into a law towards the cloſe of the ſeſſion.

Nothing could be more agreeable to the public than the ſanction of the legiſlature to this favourite plan, which was ardently promoted and patronized by men of the greateſt eminence for wealth and popularity. The company choſe for their governor his royal highneſs the prince of Wales, who received this proof of their attachment

ment and reſpect with particular marks of ſatisfac- An. 1750.
tion: the preſident and vice-preſident were both aldermen of London; and the council was compoſed of thirty gentlemen, the majority of whom were members of parliament. Great pains were taken, and ſome artifice was uſed, to learn the Dutch method of curing the fiſh. People crowded with their ſubſcriptions; a number of hands were employed in building and equipping the buſſes or veſſels uſed in the fiſhery; and the moſt favourable conſequences were expected from the general vigour and alacrity which animated theſe preparations. But the ſucceſs did not gratify the ſanguine hope of the projectors and adventurers. The objections made in the houſe of lords ſoon appeared to have been well founded: theſe co-operating with miſmanagement in the directors, the ſpirit of the company began to flag; the natural conſequence of commercial diſappointment; and now the Britiſh fiſhery ſeems to languiſh under the neglect of the legiſlature.

Touching the trade to the coaſt of Africa, peti- New African company.
tions were renewed by the company and its creditors, the merchants of Briſtol, Liverpool, and Lancaſter; and a remonſtrance was preſented by the planters and merchants intereſted in the Britiſh ſugar-ſettlements in America: but the commons adhered to their former reſolutions of laying open the trade, maintaining the forts at the public expence, and regulating the commerce by a committee of merchants, repreſenting the chief trading towns in the kingdom, to be ſuperintended by the board of trade and plantations. The bill was accordingly framed and preſented, and, having proceeded

An. 1750. ceeded through both houſes without oppoſition, obtained the royal aſſent.

Over and above theſe wiſe, ſalutary, and patriotical meaſures for the improvement of commerce, they encouraged the importation of raw ſilk by an act reducing the duties formerly payable on that which was the growth of China, to the ſame that is raiſed on the raw ſilk from Italy, and allowing the ſame drawback upon the exportation of the one which had been uſually granted on the other. A ſecond bill was brought in for the encouragement of the growth and culture of ſilk in Carolina and Georgia, where it had been lately produced with extraordinary ſucceſs, by freeing from all duties that which ſhould be imported from his majeſty's dominions in America: and a third was framed, permitting raw ſilk of the growth or produce of Perſia, purchaſed in Ruſſia, to be imported into Great Britain, from any port or place belonging to the empire of Ruſſia.

Divers efforts were made, by different members in the oppoſition, to rectify certain abuſes in the army and adminiſtration: ſome bills they brought in, and ſeveral petitions were left on the table; but all of them proved abortive, from the power and influence of the miniſter, who ſeemed reſolved that no benefit ſhould flow upon the nation thro' any channel but his own. Nevertheleſs, it muſt be acknowledged, for the honour of his memory, that there is no ſeſſion on record ſo productive as this was of meaſures advantageous to the community.

The people, however, were not intirely ſatisfied with the conduct of the adminiſtration, if we may judge

judge from the ferment and commotions raiſed during the progreſs of an election for a citizen to repreſent in parliament the city of Weſtminſter. The ſeat which had been filled by lord Trentham, eldeſt ſon of earl Gower, having become vacant, in conſequence of that nobleman's accepting a place at the board of admiralty, he again declared himſelf a candidate, and met with a violent oppoſition. Thoſe who ſtiled themſelves the independent electors of Weſtminſter, being now incenſed to an uncommon degree of turbulence by the interpoſition of miniſterial influence, determined to uſe their utmoſt endeavours for baffling the deſigns of the court, and at the ſame time take vengeance on the family of earl G—r, who had entirely abandoned the oppoſition, of which he was formerly one of the moſt reſpected leaders. With this view they held conſultations, agreed to reſolutions, and ſet up a private gentleman, named Sir George Vandeput, as the competitor of lord Trentham, declaring that they would ſupport his pretenſions at their own expence, being the more encouraged to this enterprize by the countenance and aſſiſtance of the prince of Wales and his adherents. They accordingly opened houſes of entertainment for their partiſans, ſollicited votes, circulated remonſtrances, and propagated abuſe: in a word, they canvaſſed, with ſurpriſing ſpirit and perſeverance, againſt the whole intereſt of St. James's. Mobs were hired and proceſſions made on both ſides, and the city of Weſtminſter was filled with tumult and uproar. The mutual animoſity of the parties ſeemed every day to increaſe during the election, and a great number of unqualified votes were on both ſides pre-

An. 1750. Account of the Weſtminſter election.

An. 1750. preſented: all the powers of inſinuation, obloquy, and ridicule were employed to vilify and depreciate both candidates. At length the poll being cloſed, a majority of votes appeared in behalf of lord Trentham: but a ſcrutiny being demanded by the other ſide, the returning officer complied with their requeſt.

The ſpeaker of the lower houſe had iſſued his warrant for a new writ of election about the middle of November; and towards the end of February Mr. Fox, ſecretary at war, ſtanding up, and obſerving that no return had yet been made, thought proper to move, That the clerk of the crown, the meſſenger extraordinary attending the great ſeal, the under-ſheriff of Middleſex, and the high-bailiff of Weſtminſter, ſhould attend next morning, and give an account of their iſſuing, delivering, and executing the writ of election. Theſe being examined, and the high-bailiff declaring that he would proceed with all poſſible diſpatch in the ſcrutiny which had been demanded and was begun, Mr. Speaker explained to him ſome particulars of his duty; in the diſcharge of which, he was given to underſtand, he might depend upon the protection of the houſe, ſhould he meet with any obſtruction which he could not otherwiſe ſurmount.

By the violence and caprice with which a great number of votes were on both ſides conteſted, the ſcrutiny was a long time protracted, and the return attended with ſome extraordinary conſequences, which ſhall be particulariſed among the tranſactions of the next year.

In

In the mean time, the preſent ſeſſion of parliament was cloſed on the twelfth day of April, with a ſpeech from the throne, commending the commons for having ſeized the very firſt opportunity of reducing the intereſt of the national debt, without the leaſt infringement upon the faith of parliament; and congratulating them on the flouriſhing ſtate of the public credit, which could not fail to add ſtrength and reputation to the government both at home and abroad. Immediately after the riſing of the parliament, his majeſty appointed a regency to govern the kingdom in his abſence, and embarked for the continent, in order to viſit his German dominions. An. 1750.

The month of January and the beginning of February were diſtinguiſhed, the firſt by a very remarkable Aurora Borealis, appearing at night to the north eaſt, of a deep and duſky red colour, like the reflection of ſome great fire, for which it was by many people miſtaken; and the corruſcations, unlike thoſe that are generally obſerved, did not meet in the zenith, but in a point ſome degrees to the ſouthward. February was uſhered in by terrible peals of thunder, flaſhes of lightning, and ſuch a tempeſt of wind, hail, and rain, as overwhelmed with fear and conſternation the inhabitants of Briſtol, where it chiefly raged.

A ſucceſſion of two violent earthquakes in London.

On the eighth day of the ſame month, between the hours of twelve and one in the afternoon, the people of London were ſtill more dreadfully alarmed by the ſhock of an earthquake, which ſhook all the houſes with ſuch violence, that the furniture rocked on the floors, the pewter and porcelain rattled on the ſhelves, the chamber-bells rung, and

An. 1750. and the whole of this commotion was attended with a clap or noiſe reſembling that produced by the fall of a heavy bureau. The ſhock extended through the cities of London and Weſtminſter, and was felt on both ſides of the river Thames, from Greenwich to the Weſtward of London; but not perceptible at any conſiderable diſtance.

On the very ſame day of the next month, between five and ſix o'clock in the morning, the inhabitants of the metropolis were again affrighted by a ſecond ſhock more violent than the firſt, and abundantly more alarming, as it waked the greater part of the people from their repoſe. It was preceded by a ſucceſſion of thick low flaſhes of lightning, and a rumbling noiſe, like that of a heavy carriage rolling over a hollow pavement. The ſhock itſelf conſiſted of repeated vibrations, which laſted ſome ſeconds, and violently ſhook every houſe from top to bottom. Again the chairs rocked, the ſhelves clattered, the ſmall bells rung, and in ſome places public clocks were heard to ſtrike. Many perſons rouſed by this terrible viſitation, ſtarted naked from their beds, and ran to their doors and windows in diſtraction: yet no life was loſt, and no houſe overthrown by this concuſſion, though it was ſo dreadful as to threaten an immediate diſſolution of the globe. The circumſtance, however, did not fail to make a deep impreſſion upon ignorant, weak, and ſuperſtitious minds, which were the more affected by the conſideration that the two ſhocks were periodical; that the ſecond, which happened exactly one month after the firſt, had been the more violent; and that the next, increaſing in proportion, might be attended

tended with the moſt dreadful conſequences. This general notion was confirmed, and indeed propagated among all ranks of people, by the admonitions of a fanatic ſoldier, who publickly preached up repentance, and boldly propheſied that the next ſhock would happen on the ſame day of April, and totally deſtroy the cities of London and Weſtminſter. Conſidering the infectious nature of fear and ſuperſtition, and the emphatic manner in which the imagination had been prepared and prepoſſeſſed, it is no wonder that the effuſions of this illiterate enthuſiaſt ſhould have contributed in a great meaſure to augment the general terror. The churches were crowded with penitent ſinners: the ſons of riot and profligacy were overawed into ſobriety and decorum. The ſtreets no longer reſounded with execrations, or the noiſe of brutal licentiouſneſs; and the hand of charity was liberally opened. Thoſe whom fortune had enabled to retire from the devoted city, fled to the country with hurry and precipitation, inſomuch that the highways were encumbered with horſes and carriages. Many who had, in the beginning, combated theſe groundleſs fears with the weapons of reaſon and ridicule, began inſenſibly to imbibe the contagion, and felt their hearts fail, in proportion as the hour of probation approached: even ſcience and philoſophy were not proof againſt the unaccountable effects of this communication. In after-ages it will hardly be believed, that on the evening of the eighth day of April, the open fields, that ſkirt the metropolis, were filled with an incredible number of people, aſſembled in chairs, in chaiſes, and coaches, as well on foot, who waited in the moſt An. 1750.

An. 1750. moſt fearful ſuſpence, until morning and the return of day diſproved the truth of the dreaded prophecy. Then their fears vaniſhed: they returned to their reſpective habitations in a tranſport of joy: they were ſoon reconciled to their abandoned vices, which they ſeemed to reſume with redoubled affection, and once more bad defiance to the vengeance of heaven.

Peſtilential fever from contagion at the ſeſſions of the Old Bailey.

By this time all the gaols in England were filled with the refuſe of the army and navy, which having been diſmiſſed at the peace, and either averſe to labour, or excluded from employment, had naturally preyed upon the commonwealth. Great numbers of thoſe wretches, who, by proper regulations, might have been rendered ſerviceable to the community, were executed as examples; and the reſt periſhed miſerably amidſt rhe ſtench and horrors of noiſome dungeons. Even the priſon of Newgate was rendered ſo infectious by the uncommon crowds of confined felons, ſtewed together in cloſe apartments, that the very air they breathed acquired a peſtilential degree of putrefaction. It was this putrefied air, which, adhering to the cloaths of the malefactors brought to trial at the bar of the Old Bailey in May, produced among the audience a peſtilential fever, which infected and proved fatal to the lord-mayor of London, one alderman, two of the judges, divers lawyers who attended the ſeſſion, the greateſt part of the jury, and a conſiderable number of the ſpectators. In order to prevent ſuch diſaſters for the future, the gaols were cleanſed, and accommodated with ventilators, which exhauſt the foul and ſupply a circulation of freſh air; and other humane

mane precautions were taken for the benefit of the priſoners. An. 1750.

The affairs of the continent underwent no remarkable alteration. An ambaſſador extraordinary being ſent to Peterſburg from the court of London, declared to the Czarina's miniſter, that in caſe of a rupture between Ruſſia and Sweden, occaſioned by the hoſtilities committed by the former power, his Britannic majeſty would conſider Ruſſia as the aggreſſor; and the Czarina could not expect that he would ſupply her with the ſuccours which he was engaged by treaty to furniſh for her defence, in caſe ſhe ſhould be attacked. A declaration of the ſame nature was made by the ambaſſador of her imperial majeſty the queen of Hungary; while the miniſters of France and Pruſſia, who were in ſtrict alliance with Sweden, gave her to underſtand, that they would punctually fulfil their engagements with the court of Stockholm, ſhould ſhe actually invade the Swediſh territories of Finland. The ſpirit with which the king of Pruſſia exerted himſelf on this occaſion, gave infinite umbrage to the Czarina, who, indeed, expreſſed her reſentment by treating the miniſter of Brandenburg with contemptuous neglect, and even refuſed to favour him with an audience, until he ſhould be veſted with the character of ambaſſador. Thus were ſown the ſeeds of miſunderſtanding between thoſe two powers, which, in the ſequel, grew up to the moſt bitter animoſity, and ſerved to inflame thoſe diſſenſions which have deſolated the faireſt provinces of Germany. The remonſtrance of his Pruſſian majeſty, with reſpect to the troubles of the North, was couched in ſuch terms as gave diſ-

Poſture of affairs on the continent.

Diſputes between Ruſſia and Sweden,

An. 1750. ſatisfaction to the court of Peterſburg. The Ruſſian miniſter retired from Berlin without the ceremony of taking leave, and the Pruſſian ambaſſador Warendorf was recalled from the court of the Czarina.

Plan for electing the archduke Joſeph king of the Romans.

The attention of his Britannic majeſty was not wholly engroſſed by the diſputes between Ruſſia and Sweden. He had another object in view, which more nearly concerned the intereſt of his German dominions; and had ſet on foot two negotiations of the utmoſt importance to the commerce and advantage of Great Britain. His firſt and principal aim was, in conjunction with the court of Vienna, to take ſuch meaſures as would ſecure the ſucceſſion of the imperial dignity to the archduke Joſeph, eldeſt ſon and heir of the reigning emperor. As the previous ſtep to that elevation, it was propoſed to elect this young prince king of the Romans; and for this purpoſe it was neceſſary to procure a majority not only of the electors, but alſo in the diet of the empire, through which the propoſal muſt have paſſed. No ſtone was left unturned to reconcile this expedient to the German princes. Subſidies were offered by the maritime powers of England and the States General to the electors of Mentz and Cologne; and a treaty of the ſame nature was concluded with the elector of Bavaria, who, in conſideration of an annual ſubſidy, amounting to forty thouſand pounds ſterling, two thirds of which to be payed by Britain, and the reſt by the States General, engaged to keep in readineſs a body of ſix thouſand infantry, as auxiliaries to the Maritime Powers, tho' not to act againſt the emperor or empire; and to

join

join the intereſt of his Britannic majeſty in the diet as well as in the electoral college. An. 1750.

In order to render the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, propitious to this deſign, he was accommodated with the loan of a very conſiderable ſum, upon the mortgage of certain bailiwicks and lordſhips belonging to the Saxon dominions.

Thus a majority of the electors were ſecured, and ſuch foundations laid for the ſucceſs of this project, that it was generally believed it would be accompliſhed in his Britannic majeſty's next viſit to his German dominions. Hopes (it was ſaid) were given to the king of Sweden, that his concurrence would be gratified by erecting the houſe of Heſſe Caſſel, of which he was head, into a tenth electorate. Arguments of an intereſting nature were uſed with the king of Pruſſia and the elector Palatine, that, if poſſible, the diet might unanimouſly approve of this meaſure, ſo neceſſary for eſtabliſhing the peace of the empire, and preventing ſuch troubles as aroſe from a diſputed ſucceſſion at the death of the ſixth Charles. Theſe endeavours, however, did not ſucceed in their full extent.

Oppoſed by the king of Pruſſia.

The king of Pruſſia, as elector of Brandenburg, oppoſed the election as unneceſſary and improper, on account of the health and vigour of the reigning emperor, and the tender years of the archduke. This monarch had ſet himſelf up as a ballance to the power of the houſe of Auſtria, which had long aſpired to abſolute dominion over its co eſtates, and endeavoured to eſtabliſh an hereditary right of ſucceſſion to the empire: he therefore employed all his influence to fruſtrate the meaſure propoſed, either actuated by a ſpirit of pure patriotiſm, or

An. 1750. inſpired with deſigns which he has not yet thought proper to declare. The oppoſition was joined by the elector Palatine, and countenanced by the French king; who proteſted, that, for the ſake of peace, he would not oppoſe this election, though contrary to the Golden Bull, provided it ſhould be confirmed by the unanimous conſent of the electoral college: but ſhould any one member ſignify his diſſent, and he or any ſtate of the empire claim the protection and aſſiſtance of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, he could not diſpenſe with granting both, in conſequence of his being guarantee of the treaty of Weſtphalia: an engagement by which he was obliged to ſuccour thoſe princes and ſtates of the empire who might have recourſe to him, in caſe of any grievance they ſuffered, contrary to what was ſtipulated in that conſtitution. This declaration co-operating with the known character of his Pruſſian majeſty, whoſe great army overawed Hanover and Bohemia, in all probability damped that vigour with which the courts of Vienna and Herenhauſen had hitherto proſecuted this important negotiation.

Diſputes with the French about the limits of Nova Scotia.

The ſecond object that employed the attention of the Britiſh miniſtry, was the eſtabliſhment of the preciſe limits of Acadia, or Nova Scotia, where the new colony had ſuffered great miſchief and interruption from the incurſions of the Indians, excited to theſe outrages by the ſubjects and emiſſaries of France. Commiſſaries were appointed by both crowns to meet at Paris, and compromiſe theſe diſputes: but the conferences were rendered abortive by every art of cavilling, chicanery, and procraſtination, which the French commiſſioners op-

oppoſed to the juſtice and perſpicuity of the Engliſh claims. They not only miſinterpreted treaties, though expreſſed with the utmoſt preciſion, and perplexed the conferences with difficulties and matter foreign to the ſubject, but they carried the fineſſe of perfidy ſo far as to produce falſe charts and maps of the country, in which the rivers and boundaries were miſplaced and miſrepreſented. At this time alſo the inſincerity of the French court appeared in affected delays and artful objections, with reſpect to the evacuation of the neutral iſlands in the Weſt Indies; and the governors of the Britiſh plantations, in different parts of North America, tranſmitted intelligence, importing, that the French had begun to make encroachments on the back of the Engliſh colonies. An. 1750.

Perhaps the precarious footing on which the peace ſtood between Great Britain and France at this juncture, and the critical ſituation of affairs in Germany, determined the miniſtry of England to compromiſe all differences with Spain, upon ſuch terms as at any other time they would hardly have embraced. In order to diſcuſs thoſe points between the two nations, which had not been ſettled by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, conferences were alſo begun at Madrid, and carried on by Mr. Keene, plenipotentiary of his Britannic majeſty, and Don Joſeph de Carvajal and Lancaſtro, the Spaniſh king's miniſter. At length a treaty was concluded on theſe conditions: The king of Spain engaged to pay, in three months, to the South-ſea company of England one hundred thouſand pounds ſterling, as an indemnification for all claims upon his crown, by virtue of the Aſſiento. In other reſpects, the Treaty with Spain.

An. 1750. trade and navigation of the Engliſh to the ports of Spain were regulated by former treaties. It was ſtipulated, That they ſhould pay no other duties than thoſe that were exacted of them in the reign of Charles II. of Spain: That they ſhould be treated on the footing of the moſt favoured nations, and continue to enjoy the privilege of taking ſalt at the iſland of Tortuga. But there was no article reſtricting the Spaniſh guarda-coſtas from ſearching the Britiſh veſſels on the high ſeas; although, as we have already obſerved, this inſolent prerogative, aſſumed without right, and exerciſed without humanity, was, in effect, the original and ſole cauſe of the laſt rupture, which had been attended with ſuch enormous expence to the nation. It muſt be owned, however, that his Catholic majeſty was at this period extremely well diſpoſed to live upon good terms with Great Britain. He was reſolved to indulge his people with the bleſſings of peace, to propagate a ſpirit of induſtry throughout his dominions, and in particular to encourage commerce, which he foreſaw would prove a much more certain and inexhauſtible ſource of wealth, power, and influence, than all the treaſures he could drain from the mines of Mexico and Peru. His reſolutions on this intereſting ſubject were chiefly directed by Don Ricardo Wall, who now acted as his miniſter at London; a gentleman who had diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the field as well as in the cabinet, and poſſeſſed the joint qualifications of a general and a ſtateſman. He had, by virtue of a paſſport, come over privately to England before the peace, in order to pave the way for the treaty, by a ſecret negotiation with the Engliſh miniſters; but

but immediately after the peace was proclaimed, he appeared in the character of ambaſſador. He was poſſeſſed of the moſt inſinuating addreſs, ſhrewd, penetrating, and inquiſitive. While he reſided in London, he ſpared no pains in learning the nature of thoſe manufactures, and that commerce, by which Great Britain had been ſo remarkably aggrandized; and on his return to Spain, where in a little time he was placed at the helm of affairs, he turned the knowledge he had thus acquired to the advantage of his country. He not only promoted the uſeful arts within the kingdom of Spain, but demonſtrated the infinite advantage that would accrue from an active trade, which the Spaniards had for many ages neglected; and in a few years their ſhips were ſeen to ſwarm in all the commercial ports of Europe. An. 1750.

Of other foreign events, which diſtinguiſhed this ſummer, the moſt remarkable was the death of John king of Portugal, who perfectly underſtood and ſteadily purſued the true intereſt of his country, and in whom many princely qualities were debaſed by a cruel ſpirit of bigotry and ſuperſtition. He was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſon Joſeph, who, if he has fallen ſhort of his father in ſome reſpects, cannot be juſtly charged with having inherited this paternal weakneſs.

The king of Great Britain, having returned to England, opened the ſeſſion of parliament in January with a ſpeech, importing, That he had concluded a treaty with the king of Spain, and amicably adjuſted ſuch differences as could not be ſo properly compromiſed in a general treaty: That the commerce of this nation with that country Seſſion of parliament.

An. 1750. was re-eſtabliſhed upon the moſt advantageous and ſure foundations; and that there was the greateſt reaſon to hope the antient friendſhip between Great Britain and Spain would, from mutual inclination as well as intereſt, be now effectually reſtored. He told them, That, in conjunction with the Empreſs-queen and the States General, he had concluded a treaty with the elector of Bavaria; and was employed in taking ſuch further meaſures as might beſt tend to ſtrengthen and ſecure the tranquillity of the empire, ſupport its ſyſtem, and timely anticipate ſuch events as had been found by experience to endanger the common cauſe, involve Europe in the calamities of war, and occaſion the loſs of much blood and treaſure to theſe kingdoms. He promiſed, That both theſe treaties ſhould be ſubjected to their peruſal: he gave them to underſtand, That he had received from all the other contracting powers in the definitive treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, the moſt full and clear declarations of their reſolution to preſerve the general peace; and that he had taken care to conſolidate the ties of union and friendſhip between him and his allies, the better to ſecure their mutual intereſts, maintain the peace already ſubſiſting, and prevent the occaſion of any future rupture. Finally, he recommended unanimity, the improvement of commerce, and the effectual ſuppreſſion of ſuch outrages and violences as are inconſiſtent with good order and government, and endanger the lives and properties of the ſubject, whoſe happineſs and flouriſhing condition he had intirely at heart.

Debate on the addreſs.

When the motion was made for an addreſs of thanks, couched in terms that ſavoured of the moſt im-

implicit complaiſance, approbation, and acquieſcence in the meaſures which the crown had taken, the earl of Eg---t, and ſome other anti-courtiers, affirmed, that ſuch an addreſs would be equally ſervile and abſurd. They obſerved, That nothing could be more prepoſterous than a blind approbation of meaſures which they did not know: That nothing could be more ridiculous than their congratulations on the preſent happy tranquillity, when almoſt every day's news-papers informed them of ſome Britiſh ſhip's being ſeized by the Spaniards, or ſome new attack made by the French on our infant colony in Nova Scotia. With reſpect to the continent of Europe, they affirmed, That the tranquillity of Germany would have been upon a much more ſolid foundation, had England never interpoſed in the affairs of the Empire: in that caſe the princes would of themſelves have ſupported the conſtitution of their own country: That the election of an infant for king of the Romans, was much more likely to diſturb than eſtabliſh the tranquillity of Europe; becauſe it would help to overturn the conſtitution of the Empire, by rendering the imperial dignity hereditary in one houſe, inſtead of being the reſult of a free election. They took notice, that the conſtitution had provided vicars to govern the Empire during the vacancy of the imperial throne; but had made no proviſion of regents, protectors, or guardians for a minor emperor, becauſe it never was ſuppoſed that a minor would be choſen. They inveighed againſt the late treaty with Spain; in which, they ſaid, the miniſtry, for the paultry ſum of one hundred thouſand pounds, had given up the claims of the South-

An. 1750.

ſea

An. 1750. ſea company, and other Britiſh merchants, who had ſuffered from depredations to the amount of one million three hundred thouſand pounds; and bartered away the freedom of our trade and navigation, by leaving untouched that prerogative which the Spaniards have aſſumed of ſearching the Britiſh ſhips in the open ſeas, and confiſcating them, ſhould they find on board the leaſt particle of what they call contraband merchandize. They produced an inſtance of an Engliſh ſhip, lately driven by ſtreſs of weather into one of the ports of the Spaniſh Weſt Indies, where ſhe was ſearched, ſeized, and condemned under this pretence. They recapitulated the conduct of the French, who, in the midſt of their declarations of peace and moderation, were ſtill employed in fortifying their ſettlements on the neutral iſlands, as well as in harraſſing and incroaching upon our plantations in North America. They exclaimed againſt the treaty of ſubſidy with the elector of Bavaria, or any other prince, in time of peace; obſerving, that for ſome years the nation had payed ſuch penſions to the Danes and the Heſſians; but, in the courſe of the late war, the former abandoned our intereſts, and the latter actually took arms againſt Great Britain. Finally, they affirmed, that the ſubſidy was greater than the nation could ſpare; for, unleſs the land-tax ſhould be continued at four ſhillings in the pound, they could not afford a ſhilling to any prince in Germany, without encroaching upon the ſinking fund. "At ſuch a juncture (ſaid a certain member) will any gentleman preſume to propoſe the continuation of ſuch an impoſition on the land-holder, for the ſake of bribing the princes of Germany

many to do what?--to preſerve the freedom and independency of their native country. I ſay, princes of Germany, becauſe this ſubſidy to Bavaria will ſignify nothing, unleſs we take half a ſcore more of them into our pay; and when we have thus indulged them for ſeven years of peace, they may give us the ſlip as others have done, whenever another war ſhall be declared." An. 1750.

Againſt theſe objections the motion was ſupported by Mr. William Pitt, at this time an advocate for the miniſtry. He obſerved, That the addreſs was no more than the uſual compliment to the throne, which did not imply an obligation on the parliament to approve of meaſures which they might find cauſe to cenſure upon further inquiry. He ſaid, the trivial diſputes ſtill ſubſiſting between this nation and the Spaniards, or French, would ſoon be terminated amicably, and could never affect the general tranquillity of Europe, which was to be eſtabliſhed upon a firm alliance between his majeſty and ſuch a confederacy upon the continent, as would be an over-match for the houſe of Bourbon. He expatiated upon his majeſty's wiſdom in taking off from the French intereſt ſuch a powerful prince as the elector of Bavaria, and concerting other ſalutary meaſures for preſerving the ballance of power on the continent. He defended the articles of the late treaty with Spain; obſerving, that what remained of the Aſſiento-contract was a matter of very little conſequence to the South-ſea company; that the demands of this company, and other Britiſh merchants, were all cancelled by the rupture with Spain, and more than recompenſed to the nation by a great ballance of captures during the

An. 1750. the war, as well as by the great traffick carried on with the Spaniſh ſettlements in the Weſt Indies, after it had been laid open by the demolition of their fortreſſes. He aſſerted, that by this treaty the court of Spain had made many important conceſſions: they had condeſcended to pay a great ſum to the South-ſea company: they had conſented to the re eſtabliſhment of the Britiſh trade in Spain, upon a very advantageous and ſolid footing, by agreeing that the ſubjects of Great Britain ſhould pay no other duties on merchandize than thoſe exacted of his catholic majeſty's own ſubjects, and to aboliſh all the innovations that had been introduced into the commerce. He affirmed, that the article of No Search was a ſtipulation which it would have been ridiculous to inſiſt upon; and thought proper to obviate a reproach which he foreſaw the oppoſition would throw upon him, from the circumſtance of his having, upon a former occaſion, heartily concurred in a motion for an addreſs, That no treaty of peace with Spain ſhould be admitted, unleſs ſuch a ſtipulation ſhould be firſt obtained as a preliminary. He owned he had ſtrenuouſly contended for ſuch a motion, becauſe at that time, being very young and ſanguine, he thought it right and reaſonable: but he was now ten years older, had conſidered matters more coolly, and was convinced that the privilege of No Search, with reſpect to Britiſh veſſels ſailing near the American ſhore, would never be obtained, unleſs Spain ſhould be brought ſo low as to acquieſce in any terms we as victors might propoſe. He likewiſe ſignified his conviction, that all addreſſes from the houſe of commons, during the courſe of a war, for pre-

preſcribing terms of peace, were in themſelves ridiculous; and that every ſuch addreſs was an encroachment on the king's prerogative, which had always been attended with unlucky conſequences. An. 1750.

How far theſe arguments are ſatisfactory, concluſive, and conſiſtent, we ſhall leave to the reader's determination. Certain it is, they were adopted by the majority, and the addreſs was preſented without further oppoſition.

Supplies granted for the enſuing year.

The two grand committees which are appointed to diſcuſs the ſupplies for the enſuing year, and the funds upon which they are to be raiſed, proceeded as uſual under the direction of the miniſtry; yet not without ſome vehement oppoſition, in which certain ſervants of the crown expreſſed the moſt hearty concurrence. When a motion was made for reducing the number of ſeamen to eight thouſand, Mr. W. Pitt, Mr. Lyttleton, and Mr. G. Grenville, oppoſed it with all their might of argument and elocution; but they were over-ruled. Annual debates were alſo revived, with the ſame ſucceſs, upon the number of the troops conſtituting the ſtanding army; but the other reſolutions of the grand committees met with little or no oppoſition.

The number of ſeamen for the enſuing year was limited to eight thouſand; and that of the ſtanding forces continued at eighteen thouſand eight hundred and fifty ſeven effective men, including one thouſand eight hundred and fifteen invalids.

The commons granted a conſiderable ſum of money for paying off the principal of ſuch redeemable ſtocks as had not been ſubſcribed, in purſuance of two acts paſſed in the laſt ſeſſion for re-

An. 1750. ducing the intereſt of annuities. Thirty thouſand pounds were given for fulfilling the king's engagement with the elector of Bavaria: large grants were made for ſupplying deficiencies, and replacing ſums borrowed from the ſinking fund.

The expence incurred by the new colony in Nova Scotia, not provided for by parliament, exceeded fifty-ſeven thouſand pounds; and the maintenance of it for the enſuing year was fixed at fifty-three thouſand nine hundred and twenty-ſeven pounds fourteen ſhillings and four-pence. An enormous charge! if we conſider to how little purpoſe all this bounty hath been beſtowed.

A fund was eſtabliſhed, under the ſanction of parliament, for the relief and maintenance of the widows of ſea officers, by allowing, upon the books of every ſhip of war in ſea-pay, the wages and victuals of one man for every hundred of which the complement ſhould conſiſt, for ſuch time only as the number of men employed in the ſervice of the royal navy ſhould not exceed twenty thouſand. This was an additional indulgence, over and above the allowance of one man granted by a former act of parliament.

On the whole, the proviſions of this year amounted to five millions one hundred twenty-five thouſand twenty-three pounds eleven ſhillings and ſeven-pence, to be raiſed by the uſual duties: the ſum of one million twenty-ſix thouſand four hundred ſeventy-ſix pounds four ſhillings and ſix-pence, advanced by the company of the bank of England, to pay off their own unſubſcribed annuities, for which they accepted exchequer-bills at three pounds per centum intereſt; by the land-tax

AUGUSTA Princeſs Dowager of WALES.

at three ſhillings in the pound; a lottery and annuities, at the rate of three per centum per annum, to be charged on the ſinking fund, redeemable by parliament. An. 1750.

The annual meaſure, called the mutiny bill, was not paſſed without diſpute and altercation: ſome alterations were propoſed, but not adopted; and the ſentences of court-martials ſtill ſubjected to one reviſion.

In the midſt of theſe deliberations the kingdom was alarmed with an event which overwhelmed the people with grief and conſternation. His royal highneſs the prince of Wales, in conſequence of a cold caught in his garden at Kew, was ſeized with a pleuretic diſorder; and, after a ſhort illneſs, expired on the twentieth day of March, to the unſpeakable affliction of his royal conſort, and the unfeigned ſorrow of all who wiſhed well to their country. This excellent prince, who now died in the forty-fifth year of his age, was poſſeſſed of every amiable quality which could engage the affection of the people: a tender and obliging huſband, a fond parent, a kind maſter, liberal, generous, candid, and humane; a munificent patron of the arts, an unwearied friend to merit; well diſpoſed to aſſert the rights of mankind in general, and warmly attached to the intereſt of Great Britain. The nation could not but be afflicted at ſeeing a prince of ſuch expectations raviſhed from their hopes; and their grief was the better founded, as the king had already attained to an advanced age, and the heir-apparent George, now prince of Wales, was a minor. Death and character of the prince of Wales.

His

An. 1751. Settlement of a regency, in caſe of a minor ſovereign.

His majeſty, foreſeeing all the inconveniences which might ariſe from a minority, deliberated with his council on this ſubject, and reſolved to obtain a parliamentary ſanction for the meaſures judged neceſſary to ſecure the ſucceſſion. With this view he ſent a meſſage to both houſes on the twenty-ſixth day of April, importing, That nothing could conduce ſo much to the preſervation of the proteſtant ſucceſſion in his royal family, as proper proviſions for the tuition of the perſon of his ſucceſſor, and for the regular adminiſtration of the government, in caſe the ſucceſſor ſhould be of tender years: his majeſty therefore earneſtly recommended this weighty affair to the deliberation of parliament; and propoſed, that when the imperial crown of theſe realms ſhould deſcend to any of the late prince's ſons, being under the age of eighteen years, his mother, the princeſs dowager of Wales, ſhould be guardian of his perſon, and regent of theſe kingdoms, until he ſhould attain the age of majority, with ſuch powers and limitations as ſhould appear neceſſary and expedient for theſe purpoſes. This meſſage produced a very affectionate addreſs, promiſing to take the affair into their ſerious conſideration; and in the beginning of May the duke of Newcaſtle preſented to the houſe of peers a bill to provide for the adminiſtration of government, in caſe the crown ſhould deſcend to a minor. The bill was read a ſecond time, and committed, when a ſecond meſſage arrived from his majeſty, recommending to their conſideration the ſettlement of ſuch a council of regency as the bill propoſed, conſiſting of his royal highneſs the duke of Cumberland, who at that time

time commanded the army, the archbiſhop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor, the lord high treaſurer, or firſt lord commiſſioner of the treaſury, the preſident of the council, the lord privy-ſeal, the lord high admiral of Great Britain, or firſt commiſſioner of the admiralty, the two principal ſecretaries of ſtate, and the lord chief juſtice of the King's Bench, all theſe great officers (except his royal highneſs the duke) for the time being. An. 1751.

This bill did not paſs through the lower houſe without violent debate and bitter ſarcaſms. The council of regency, though eſpouſed by all the miniſtry, including the paymaſter-general, met with fierce oppoſition, as an unneceſſary and fatal reſtriction that would impede the machine of government, and, as the council was conſtituted, might be productive of the moſt pernicious conſequences. Some of the members ventured even to inſinuate the danger of leaving at the head of a large ſtanding army a prince of the blood, veſted with a ſhare of the regency, poſſeſſed of great perſonal influence, the darling of the ſoldiery, brave, popular, and enterpriſing; ſuppoſed not wholly devoid of ambition, and not at all remarkable for any ſymptoms of extraordinary affection towards the perſon of the heir-apparent. The hiſtory of England was ranſacked for invidious inſtances of royal uncles and regents, who had injured the ſovereigns, and diſtreſſed the government, by their pride, cruelty, and ambition. The characters of John Lackland, and John of Ghent, Humphrey and Richard dukes of Glouceſter, were called in review, canvaſſed, compared, and quoted with ſome odious applications: but the majority, being convinced of the

An. 1751. loyalty, virtue, integrity, and great abilities of his royal highneſs, to whom the nation owed obligations of the moſt important nature, paſſed the bill with a few amendments, in which the lords acquieſced; and in a little time it received the royal ſanction.

General naturalization-bill.

The death of his royal highneſs the prince of Wales was fatal to a bill which had been brought into the houſe of commons, for naturalizing all foreign proteſtants who ſhould ſettle within the dominions of Great Britain. Political arithmeticians have generally taken it for granted, that, to every commercial nation, an increaſe of people is an increaſe of opulence; and this maxim is certainly true, on the ſuppoſition that every individual is induſtrious, and that there is a ſufficient field for employment; but all theſe general maxims ought to be adopted under certain qualifications. When all branches of manufacture are overſtocked, an addition of workmen will doubtleſs be an additional incumbrance on the community. In the debates, which this bill produced, the members of the miniſtry were divided among themſelves. The meaſure was eſpouſed by the chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. W. Pitt, and Mr. Lyttleton; and in oppoſing it the earl of Egmont was joined by Mr. Fox, ſecretary at war.

Petitions and counter-petitions were preſented by the merchants of London, Briſtol, and other trading towns of the kingdom. All merchants and traders of foreign extraction exerted themſelves vigorouſly in its behalf, and it was without doubt countenanced by the adminiſtration; but the project was odious to the people in general.

The

The lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of London, in common council aſſembled, compoſed a remonſtrance to the lower houſe, ſetting forth the danger and inutility of a general naturalization of foreign proteſtants. A petition of the merchants and principal inhabitants of Briſtol, repreſented, that ſuch a law would be prejudicial to the trade and commerce of this kingdom, by preventing many induſtrious artificers from procuring a ſufficient ſupport for themſelves and their families, and of conſequence increaſing the rates of the poor: that the introduction of ſuch a number of foreigners, inſtead of being a ſupport to the preſent happy eſtabliſhment, might endanger the very baſis of our conſtitution: that it would greatly tend to the diminution of our manufactures, as many ſtrangers would doubtleſs come and reſide in England for a time, in order to learn the methods and management of our manufacturers and artificers; and, after having obtained this inſtruction, return to their native countries, where they would eſtabliſh and carry on works of the ſame nature. An. 1751.

The twentieth day of March being appointed for the third reading of the bill, it was poſtponed, in conſequence of the unfortunate death of the prince of Wales; and other petitions from different cities of the kingdom being muſtered againſt it in the ſequel, the miniſtry did not think proper to perſiſt in an unpopular meaſure at ſuch a delicate conjuncture; ſo the bill was no more brought upon the carpet.

Divers other regulations, relating to civil policy as well as to the commerce of Great Britain, were propounded in the houſe of commons; but theſe

An. 1751. propoſals proved abortive, either becauſe they appeared crude and indigeſted in themſelves, or the houſe could not obtain proper information touching the allegations they contained.

Cenſure paſt upon a paper intituled Conſtitutional Queries.

Other tranſactions in this ſeſſion there were none, except the concurrence of both houſes in ſtigmatizing a printed paper, intituled, "Conſtitutional Queries, earneſtly recommended to the ſerious conſideration of every true Briton;" and the ſteps taken by the commons, in conſequence of the commotions occaſioned by the Weſtminſter election. The abovementioned paper, which had been conveyed by letter to the majority of both houſes, was in the month of January communicated to the lords by the duke of Marlborough, who moved for reſolutions againſt it as a ſeditious libel, and that the concurrence of the commons might be deſired. A conference accordingly enſued, and both houſes concurred in voting the paper a falſe, malicious, ſcandalous, infamous, and ſeditious libel, containing the moſt falſe, audacious, and abominable calumnies and indignities upon his majeſty, and the moſt preſumptuous and wicked inſinuations that our laws, liberties, and properties, and the excellent conſtitution of this kingdom, were in danger under his majeſty's legal, mild, and gracious government, with intent to inſtil groundleſs ſuſpicions and jealouſies into the minds of his majeſty's good ſubjects, and to alienate their affections from his majeſty and his royal family. It was therefore reſolved, by the lords ſpiritual and temporal, and commons in parliament aſſembled, That, in abhorrence and deteſtation of ſuch abominable and ſeditious practices, the paper ſhould be burnt by the

the hands of the common hangman in the new Palace-yard of Weſtminſter; and this ſentence was executed accordingly. Then they preſented an addreſs to his majeſty, deſiring that the moſt effectual means might be taken for diſcovering the author, printer, or publiſher, that he or they might be brought to condign puniſhment. Directions were given for this purpoſe; but without effect. Thoſe concerned in writing, printing, and circulating the paper, had acted with ſuch caution, that not one of them was ever diſcovered. An. 1751.

Proceedings on the election of a citizen for Weſtminſter.

The proceedings of the commons, with reſpect to the election of a burgeſs for Weſtminſter, were attended with ſome extraordinary circumſtances, which we ſhall now record, for the edification of thoſe who pique themſelves on the privileges of a Britiſh ſubject. We have already obſerved, that a majority appearing on the poll for lord Trentham, the adherents of the other candidate, Sir George Vandeput, demanded a ſcrutiny, which was granted by the high bailiff of Weſtminſter, the returning officer. During this tedious inveſtigation, which rolled chiefly on the qualification of voters, he acted with ſuch addreſs and ſeeming candour as gave intire ſatisfaction to both parties, until at length he determined in favour of his lordſhip, whom he returned as duly elected. Thoſe who ſtiled themſelves the independent electors, did not acquieſce in this determination without clamour, reproach, menaces, and riot. They taxed Mr. Leigh the high bailiff with partiality and injuſtice: they loudly affirmed, that miniſterial influence had been uſed in the moſt ſcandalous manner; and, finally, joined Sir George Vandeput in a

An. 1751. petition to the lower houſe, complaining of an undue election and return of a member for the city of Weſtminſter. The commons, inſtead of inquiring into the merits of theſe petitions, ordered them to lie upon the table; and, without any complaint from any perſon whatever, a motion was made, that Leigh the high bailiff ſhould attend the houſe immediately, in order to make them acquainted with what he had done in purſuance to the directions he had formerly received from that houſe, touching the execution of the writ for electing a new member to repreſent the city of Weſtminſter. As this motion had been preconcerted, Leigh was attending in the lobby, and immediately called into the houſe to be examined on this ſubject. Having, in the courſe of his examination, alledged, that the election had been protracted by affected delays, he was aſked by whom, and by what means; but, before he could anſwer, the earl of Egmont, interpoſing, objected to the queſtion as improper, and moved for the order of the day. A debate immediately enſued, in which the impropriety of the queſtion was demonſtrated by Mr. Henley, now lord-keeper, Dr. Lee, and ſome others, the moſt ſenſible and moderate members of the houſe: but they were oppoſed with great violence by the lord viſcount Coke, Henry Fox, Eſq; Sir William Yonge, colonel Lyttleton, and the weight of the miniſtry; ſo that the motion for the order of the day was carried in the negative, and the high bailiff required to anſwer the queſtion. Thus interrogated, he declared, that he had been impeded in the ſcrutiny, and mal-treated, by Mr. Crowle, who had acted as counſel for Sir George Vandeput, by the honour-

honourable Alexander Murray, brother to lord Eli- An. 1751.
bank, and one Gibſon, an upholſterer, who had been very active, zealous, and turbulent in his endeavours to promote the intereſt of Sir George Vandeput, or rather to thwart the pretenſions of the other candidate, who was ſuppoſed to be countenanced by the miniſtry. Theſe three perſons, thus accuſed, were brought to the bar of the houſe, notwithſtanding the ſtrenuous remonſtrances of ſeveral members, who oppoſed this method of proceeding as a ſpecies of oppreſſion equally arbitrary and abſurd. They obſerved, that, as no complaint had been preferred, they had no right to take cognizance of the affair: that if any undue influence had been uſed, it would naturally appear when the merits of the election ſhould fall under their inquiry: that a complaint having been lodged already againſt the returning officer, it was their duty to inveſtigate his conduct, and puniſh him, if he ſhould be found delinquent; but that nothing could be more flagrantly unjuſt, and apparently partial, than their neglecting the petitions of the other candidate and electors, and encouraging the high bailiff, who ſtood charged with iniquity, to recriminate upon his accuſers, that they might be diſabled from giving evidence on the inquiry into the merits of the election. What difference is it to the ſubject, whether he is oppreſſed by an arbitrary prince, or by the deſpotic inſolence of a miniſterial majority?

Mr. Crowle alledged, in his own vindication, that he had been employed as a counſel by the electors of Weſtminſter, and attended the ſcrutiny in that character; that after the high bailiff had,

An. 1751. in the courſe of the laſt ſeſſion, received the order of the houſe to expedite the election, he hurried on the ſcrutiny with ſuch precipitation as, he apprehended, was unjuſt and prejudicial to his clients; that, in this apprehenſion, he (Mr. Crowle) inſiſted upon the high bailiff's proceeding with more deliberation, and in ſo doing he thought he did his duty to his employers. Some evidences being examined againſt him, declared he had not only protracted the ſcrutiny, but alſo ſpoken diſreſpectful words of the honourable houſe of commons: he was therefore reprimanded on his knees by the ſpeaker, and diſcharged.

Mr. Murray ſent priſoner to Newgate.

Mr. Murray being charged with having uttered ſome threatening and affrontive expreſſions, the houſe adjourned the conſideration of this affair for ſome days, at the expiration of which Mr. Murray was to be heard by his counſel: but, in the mean time, they ordered him to be taken into cuſtody by the ſerjeant at arms attending the houſe. This ſtep, however, was not taken without a warm oppoſition by ſome of the moſt ſedate and intelligent members of the houſe, who conſidered it as a cruel act of oppreſſion. They obſerved, that in caſes of breach of privilege, no perſon complained of was ever taken into cuſtody, until after he had been fully heard in his defence: that this was literally prejudging the cauſe before it had been examined; and the oppreſſion was the greater as the alledged offence conſiſted intirely of words, of which no complaint or information had been made for above eight months after the ſuppoſed offence had been committed; and, even then, not till an accuſation had been lodged againſt the informant, upon the trial

trial of which accuſation the perſons informed againſt might very probably be the moſt material witneſſes. They obſerved, that in one of the higheſt offences which can be committed by words, namely, that of denying the king's right to the crown, or renouncing the Trinity, the information muſt be brought in three or four days after the words are ſpoken; the words muſt be proved to have been ſpoken maliciouſly, directly, and adviſedly, and the proſecution muſt commence in three months after the information. Theſe ſuggeſtions made no more impreſſion than if they had been uttered in the deſert. Thoſe who were ſecure in their number aſſerted, that the houſe of commons was not reſtricted by the forms of proceeding at common law; and that it was neceſſary to vindicate their own honour and dignity, by making examples of thoſe who ſeemed to hold them in contempt. Mr. Murray was committed to the cuſtody of the ſerjeant at arms, and found bail; and Gibſon was ſent priſoner to Newgate, from whence he was in a few days releaſed, upon preſenting an humble petition, profeſſing his ſorrow for having incurred the diſpleaſure of the houſe; to the bar of which he was brought, and received a reprimand on his knees from the ſpeaker. An. 1751.

In the mean time, divers witneſſes being examined before the houſe, declared, That Mr. Murray had been ſeen, about the time of the return of a member for Weſtminſter, heading and exciting a tumult to acts of violence againſt the high bailiff. The majority, therefore, after a long and warm debate, agreed, That for his dangerous and

An. 1751. ſeditious practices, in violation and contempt of the privileges of the houſe, and of the freedom of elections, he ſhould be committed cloſe priſoner to Newgate. Then, in the cloſe of another violent debate, they reſolved, That he ſhould be brought to the bar of the houſe, to receive that ſentence on his knees. He accordingly appeared, and being directed by the ſpeaker to kneel, refuſed to comply. He knew that he could not be diſcharged from Newgate during the ſeſſion, without petitioning, acknowledging his offence, and making ſuch conceſſions as he thought would imply a conſciouſneſs of guilt: he conſidered this whole tranſaction as an oppreſſive exertion of arbitrary power, and, being apprized of the extent of their authority, determined to bear the brunt of their indignation, rather than make ſubmiſſions which he deemed beneath the dignity of his character. When he refuſed to humble himſelf, the whole houſe was in commotion: he was no ſooner removed from the bar than they reſolved, That his having, in a moſt inſolent and audacious manner, refuſed to be on his knees at the bar of that houſe, in conſequence of their former reſolution, was an high and moſt dangerous contempt of the authority and privilege of the commons: it was therefore ordered, that he ſhould be committed cloſe priſoner to Newgate, debarred the uſe of pen, ink, and paper; and that no perſon ſhould have acceſs to him, without the leave of the houſe. Finally, a committee was appointed to conſider what methods might be proper to be taken by them, in relation to this inſtance of contempt.

Mean

Mean while, the petitioners againſt the return made by the high bailiff, perceiving the temper of the houſe, and the complexion of the majority, withdrew their petition; and the order, which had paſſed for hearing the merits of the election, was diſcharged. An. 1751.

Mr. Murray being taken dangerouſly ill in Newgate, application was made to the commons, by ſome of his relations, that he might be removed to a more convenient ſituation; and his phyſician, being examined, gave it as his opinion, that he was infected with the gaol diſtemper. Upon this repreſentation the houſe agreed, that the ſpeaker ſhould iſſue a warrant for removing him from Newgate to the cuſtody of the ſerjeant at arms; but this favour he refuſed to accept, and expreſſed the warmeſt reſentment againſt thoſe relations who had applied to the commons in his behalf. Thus he remained ſequeſtered, even from his own brother and ſiſter, under the diſpleaſure of the commons of England, who condeſcended ſo far as to make reſolutions touching the phyſician, apothecary, and nurſe who attended this priſoner. But the prorogation of parliament having put an end to their authority for that ſeſſion, Mr. Murray was diſcharged of courſe, and conducted by the ſheriffs from Newgate to his own houſe in proceſſion, with flags and ſtreamers exhibiting the emblems of liberty.

In the month of June the ſeſſion was cloſed with a ſpeech from the throne, in which his majeſty thanked both houſes for the zeal and affection they had manifeſted towards him and his government; and congratulated the commons in particular, upon their firmneſs and prudence in reducing the intereſt

An. 1751. tereſt of the national debt, a meaſure as agreeable to him as eſſential to the ſtrength and welfare of the kingdom *.

Enormous crimes prevail over all England.

The interior œconomy of Great Britain produced, within the circle of this year, nothing elſe worthy of hiſtorical regard, except a ſeries of enormous crimes, ariſing from the profligacy of individuals, which reflected diſgrace upon the morals and the polity of the nation. Rapine and robbery had domineered without intermiſſion ever ſince the return of peace, which was attended with a reduction of the army and navy; but now crimes of a deeper dye ſeemed to lift up their heads, in contempt of law and humanity. An indulgent parent was poiſoned by his only daughter, on whom, beſides other marks of tenderneſs and paternal affection, he had beſtowed a liberal education, which greatly aggravated her guilt and ingratitude. Another young woman was concerned in the aſſaſſination of her own uncle, who had been her conſtant benefactor and ſole guardian. A poor old woman,

* One of the moſt remarkable acts which paſſed in the courſe of this ſeſſion, was that for regulating the commencement of the year, and correcting the calendar, according to the Gregorian computation, which had been adopted by all the other nations in Europe. By this new law it was decreed, that the new year ſhould begin on the firſt day of January; and that eleven intermediate nominal days, between the ſecond and fourteenth days of September, 1752, ſhould for that time be omitted, ſo that the day ſucceeding the ſecond ſhould be denominated the fourteenth of that month. By this eſtabliſhment of the new ſtile, the equinoxes and ſolſtices will happen nearly on the ſame nominal days on which they fell in the year 325, at the council of Nice; and the correſpondence between the Engliſh merchants and thoſe of foreign countries will be greatly facilitated, with reſpect to the dates of letters and accounts.

having,

having, from the ignorance and ſuperſtition of her neighbours, incurred the ſuſpicion of ſorcery and witchcraft, was murdered in Hertfordſhire by the populace, with all the wantonneſs of barbarity. Rape and murder were perpetrated upon an unfortunate woman in the neighbourhood of London, and an innocent man ſuffered death for this complicated outrage, while the real criminals aſſiſted at his execution, heard him appeal to heaven for his innocence, and, in the character of friends, embraced him, while he ſtood on the brink of eternity. Every day almoſt produced freſh inſtances of perjury, forgery, fraud, and circumvention; and the kingdom exhibited a moſt amazing jumble of virtue and vice, honour and infamy, compaſſion and obduracy, ſentiment and brutality. An. 1751.

Death of the queen of Denmark, and of the prince of Orange.

The royal family of England had ſuſtained three ſevere ſhocks in the compaſs of a few months. Beſides the loſs of the prince of Wales, which the nation lamented as irreparable, his majeſty was deeply afflicted by the untimely death of his youngeſt daughter, the queen of Denmark, who died at Copenhagen on the nineteenth day of December, in the prime of youth and zenith of reputation. She was one of the moſt amiable princeſſes of the age in which ſhe lived, whether we conſider the virtues of her heart, or the accompliſhments of her perſon; generous, mild, and tender-hearted; beloved, even almoſt to adoration, by her royal conſort, to whom ſhe had borne a prince and two princeſſes; and univerſally admired and revered by the ſubjects of his Daniſh majeſty. Her death had been preceded about two months by that of her brother-in-law the prince of Orange, no leſs re-

An. 1751. regretted by the natives of the United Provinces, for his candour, integrity, and hereditary love to his country. Though he had not diſtinguiſhed himſelf by the luſtre of a ſuperior genius, he had been at great pains to cultivate his underſtanding, and ſtudy the true intereſt of that community of which he was a member. He had always approved himſelf a good and zealous citizen, and, ſince his elevation to the ſtadtholderſhip, taken many ſalutary ſteps for the advantage of his country. Among other excellent ſchemes which he ſuggeſted, he left a noble plan with the States General for reſtoring their commerce to its former luſtre, and lived long enough to receive their warmeſt acknowledgments for this laſt proof of his prudence and patriotiſm. His ſon and daughter being both infants, the adminiſtration of the government devolved upon the princeſs, as governante, during her ſon's minority; and as ſuch ſhe ſucceeded to all the power which her huſband had enjoyed.

Miſunderſtanding between the Czarina and the king of Pruſſia.

With reſpect to the affairs of the continent, the peace of the North ſeemed ſtill as precarious as ever: for though the difference between Ruſſia and Sweden had been compromiſed, the mutual diſguſt between the Czarina and king of Pruſſia had gained ſuch acceſſion from reciprocal inſults, ill offices, and inflammatory declarations, that theſe two powers ſeemed to be on the eve of a rupture, and each was employed in making extraordinary preparations for war.

The courts of Vienna and Great Britain, foreſeeing that ſuch a rupture would embroil the Empire, and raiſe inſurmountable obſtructions to their favourite ſcheme of electing the archduke Joſeph

king of the Romans, reſolved to employ all their influence in order to effect a reconciliation between the courts of Peterſburg and Berlin. An. 1751.

His Pruſſian majeſty had ſignified to the king of Great Britain, and the States General, the ſituation in which he ſtood with the Czarina, and ſollicited their interpoſition, that the difference might be amicably accommodated. At the ſame time he ſent an envoy extraordinary to Verſailles, to negotiate with the French king a very conſiderable body of auxiliaries, in caſe he ſhould be attacked. Theſe circumſtances induced the Maritime Powers and the court of Vienna to uſe their utmoſt endeavours for the prevention of a rupture; and accordingly they made remonſtrances on this ſubject by their miniſters at Peterſburg, propoſing, that the quarrel ſhould be terminated without bloodſhed, and all cauſe of animoſity be buried in oblivion.

Proſecution of meaſures for electing a king of the Romans.

In the mean time they eagerly proſecuted the deſign of the election; and the Imperial miniſter at Berlin not only communicated to his Pruſſian majeſty the ſentiments of the king of England on this expedient, but even ſollicited his vote for the archduke Joſeph, when the election of a king of the Romans ſhould be propoſed in the electoral college. To this propoſal he replied, That he was extremely well diſpoſed to manifeſt his regard for their Imperial majeſties, and to give the moſt genuine proofs of it, even in the propoſed election of a king of the Romans, conſidering the great merit of the preſent candidate, the archduke Joſeph: but he left it to the conſideration of their Imperial majeſties, whether the election would not be a little premature, if tranſacted at a time when his Im-

An. 1751. Imperial majeſty was in the flower of his age, enjoying perfect health; and when all Europe, particularly the Empire, was huſhed within the boſom of tranquillity, ſo that no circumſtance ſeemed to prognoſticate the neceſſity of ſuch an election, or of putting in execution the motives mentioned in the capitulation of the reigning emperor's election; eſpecially as the examination of theſe motives belonged to the whole Empire, and ought to precede the election, by virtue of the eighth article of the treaty of Weſtphalia. He obſerved, that in caſe of the emperor's death, Germany would find herſelf in a very diſagreeable ſituation, under the government of a minor. For theſe reaſons, he ſaid, he could not help adviſing their Imperial majeſties to wait until the archduke ſhould be of age, when his election might be carried on more conformable to the laws and conſtitutions of the Empire, and more ſuitable to the majeſty of the whole Germanic body.

This reply he circulated among the electors, and in particular tranſmitted it to the king of Great Britain, deſiring they would deliberate maturely on this ſubject, and confer together in a body as well as in private, that they might proceed according to the antient cuſtom of the electoral college, and take ſuch meaſures as ſhould be judged expedient for the honour and advantage of the community.

This circular letter was anſwered both by the king of England and the elector of Bavaria, who demonſtrated, that it was the privilege of the electoral college only, without any participation of the other princes of the Empire, to elect a king of the Romans during the life of the emperor, in order

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to maintain the peace and preſerve the liberties of Germany; and that the neglect of this wiſe precaution hath produced bloody wars, and many fatal conſequences to the Empire. They obſerved, that nothing could more contribute to the eſtabliſhment of the public tranquillity than this meaſure, ſo ardently deſired by the majority of the German princes; and that, although the archduke Joſeph wanted a few years of being of age, and it might poſſibly happen that the reigning Emperor ſhould die during that prince's minority, it would be much leſs prejudicial to the Empire to have a minor chief, than to ſee the ſucceſſion altogether unſettled. An. 1751.

To the ſame purpoſe his Pruſſian majeſty received a declaration from the elector of Mentz; and underſtanding that this prince, as arch-chancellor of the Empire, intended to convoke an electoral diet, in order to propoſe the election of the king of the Romans, he wrote an elaborate letter to his electoral highneſs, explaining, at more length, his reaſons for poſtponing the election. He quoted that ſentence of the treaty of Weſtphalia which expreſly declares, that the election of a king of the Romans ſhall be diſcuſſed and ordained by the common conſent of the ſtates of the Empire; and therefore he could not conceive what right the electoral college had to arrogate this privilege to themſelves, excluding the other ſtates of the Empire. He obſerved, that the Imperial capitulations, which were the only laws of the Empire that treated of this ſubject, mentioned only three caſes in which it was lawful to proceed to ſuch an election; namely, the Emperor's leaving and long

An. 1751. abſence from Germany; his advanced age, or an indiſpoſition, rendering him incapable of managing the reins of government; and any caſe of emergency in which the preſervation of the Empire's proſperity is intereſted. He affirmed, that none of theſe motives at preſent exiſted: that, in caſe the Imperial crown ſhould devolve to a minor, many miſchiefs and diſorders muſt enſue, as the conſtitutions of the Empire have eſtabliſhed no regulations nor regency in that event: that an election of this nature, carried on under the power, influence, and authority of the head of the Empire, would ſtrike at the fundamental privileges of the princes and ſtates; conſequently in time overturn the conſtitution of the Empire, which, from being an elective dignity, conferred by the free and independent ſuffrages of the electoral college and ſtates of Germany, under certain capitulations, obliging the prince thus choſen to govern according to law, would become an hereditary ſucceſſion, perpetuated in one family, which, of courſe, muſt be aggrandized to the prejudice of its co-eſtates, and the ruin of the Germanic liberties.

In a word, all Germany in general, and Ratisbon in particular, was filled with writings, publiſhed on both ſides: by the Emperor, and his adherents, to demonſtrate, that the election of a king of the Romans, during the life of the Emperor, had often happened; and at this preſent time was neceſſary, and would be advantageous to the Empire: while the king of Pruſſia, and his friends, laboured to prove, that ſuch an election, at the preſent juncture, would be ill timed, irregular, and of dangerous conſequence. Perhaps, if the truth was known,

this enterprising prince had projected some great scheme, with the execution of which this proposed establishment would have interfered. Certain it is, he exerted himself with that spirit and perseverance which are peculiar to his character, to frustrate the intention of the courts of Vienna and London in this particular, and was assisted with all the intrigue of the French ministry. Their joint endeavours were so effectual, that the elector of Cologne renounced his subsidiary treaty with the Maritime Powers, and once more threw himself into the arms of France. The elector Palatine, being sollicited by the Empress-queen and his Britannic majesty to co-operate with their views, insisted, as a preliminary article, upon being indemnified by the court of Vienna for the ravages committed in his territories by the Austrian troops, during the course of the last war: the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, made the same demand of the like indemnification, which was granted by the mediation of king George; and then he subscribed to a subsidy-treaty, obliging himself to furnish a body of six thousand auxiliaries, in case they should be required by the Maritime Powers; and to act, as elector, in concert with the house of Austria, in every thing relating to the welfare of his country, that should square with the fundamental laws of the Empire. An. 1751.

The courts of London and Vienna had this election so much at heart, that they sounded almost all the powers of Europe, to know how they stood affected towards the measure proposed. The king of Spain declined intermeddling in a domestic affair of the Empire. The French king returned

An. 1751. an ambiguous anſwer; from whence it was concluded, that nothing but oppoſition could be expected from that quarter. The Swediſh monarch was rendered propitious to the project by aſſurances, that the houſe of Heſſe Caſſel, of which he was the head, ſhould be elevated into an electorate. They even endeavoured to ſoften his Pruſſian majeſty, by conſenting, at laſt, that the treaty of Dreſden, confirming to him the poſſeſſion of Sileſia, ſhould be guarantied by the dyet of the Empire; a ſanction which he now actually obtained, together with the ratification of his Imperial majeſty. Notwithſtanding this indulgence, he ſtill perſiſted in raiſing freſh objections to the favourite project, on pretence of concerting meaſures for preventing the inconveniences that might reſult from a minority; for regulating the capitulations to be agreed on with the king of the Romans; ſecuring the freedom of future elections, and preſerving the prerogatives and privileges of the Germanic body in all its members.

In conſequence of theſe obſtacles, joined to the apoſtacy of the elector of Cologne, the obſtinacy of the elector Palatine, and the approaching dyet of Hungary, at which their Imperial majeſties were obliged perſonally to preſide, the meaſures for the election were ſuſpended till next ſummer, when his Britannic majeſty was expected at Hanover, to put the finiſhing ſtroke to this great event in favour of the houſe of Auſtria.

Another diſappointment, with reſpect to this election, the promoters of it ſuſtained in the death of his Swediſh majeſty, who expired in a good old age, and was ſucceeded by Adolphus Frederic, duke

duke of Holſtein Eutin, biſhop of Lubeck, upon whom the ſucceſſion had been ſettled for ſome years by the unanimous concurrence of the ſtates of the kingdom. This prince aſcended the throne of Sweden without the leaſt diſturbance; and, of his own accord, took an oath in full ſenate, that he would never attempt to introduce a deſpotic authority; but maintain their liberties with his blood, and govern his ſubjects in all reſpects according to the laws and the form of government eſtabliſhed in Sweden. This public act, which was communicated to all the foreign miniſters, and particularly to the envoy from Petersbourg, met with ſuch a favourable reception from the Czarina, that ſhe expreſſed her ſatisfaction in a public declaration; and the good underſtanding between the two courts was perfectly reſtored. An. 1751.

When the parliament of England was opened, in the month of November, the king, in his ſpeech from the throne, gave them to underſtand, That, for the ſame purpoſes which ſuggeſted the treaty with the elector of Bavaria, he had now, in conjunction with the States General, concluded another with the king of Poland, elector of Saxony. He told them, that the unfortunate death of the prince of Orange had made no alteration in the ſtate of affairs in Holland; and that he had received the ſtrongeſt aſſurances from the States of their firm reſolution to maintain the intimate union and friendſhip happily ſubſiſting between his majeſty and thoſe antient and natural allies of his crown. Finally, he exhorted both houſes to conſider ſeriouſly of ſome effectual proviſions to ſuppreſs thoſe audacious crimes of robbery and violence, grown Seſſion of parliament.

An. 1751. ſo frequent about the capital, proceeding in a great meaſure from that profligate ſpirit of irreligion, idleneſs, gaming, and extravagance, which had of late extended itſelf in an uncommon degree, to the diſhonour of the nation, and the great offence and prejudice of the ſober and induſtrious part of the people. The paragraphs of this ſpeech were, as uſual, ecchoed back to the throne in addreſſes, replete with expreſſions of loyalty, affection, and approbation. Oppoſition was by this time almoſt extinguiſhed; and the proceedings of both houſes took place with ſuch unanimity as was hardly ever known, before this period, in a Britiſh parliament.

Animoſity of the commons towards Mr. Murray.

The commons, however, ſeem to have aſſembled with ſuch ſentiments as did no great honour to their temper and magnanimity. In a few days after the ſeſſion opened, the lord viſcount C—e, a young nobleman, whoſe character intitled him to very little regard or influence among men of ſenſe and probity, made a motion, that Mr. Murray, who had been ſo ſeverely perſecuted in the laſt ſeſſion for refuſing to humble himſelf on his knees before them, ſhould be again committed cloſe priſoner to Newgate for the ſame offence.

This propoſal, which ſuppoſed a power that the commons had never before exerciſed, was ſharply diſputed by the earl of Eg—t, and others, who had not reſigned all ſenſe of moderation; but the majority adopted the meaſure with great eagerneſs, and the ſpeaker was ordered to iſſue his warrant accordingly. Then the houſe reſolved, That the ſaid Alexander Murray ſhould receive the ſentence, for his now being committed cloſe priſoner to his majeſty's gaol of Newgate, at the bar of the houſe

houſe upon his knees; and the ſerjeant at arms was commanded to take him into cuſtody for this purpoſe. An. 1751.

Their indignation, however, was eluded by the caution of the delinquent, who, having foreſeen the effects of their reſentment, had prudently retired to another country. They determined, nevertheleſs, to proceed againſt him as a perſon of ſome conſequence in the commonwealth; for, being informed of his retreat, they condeſcended ſo far as to preſent an addreſs to his majeſty, deſiring that his royal proclamation might be iſſued for apprehending the ſaid Mr. Murray, promiſing a reward to him who ſhould have the good fortune to apprehend this fugitive: a requeſt with which his majeſty moſt graciouſly complied.

Proceedings upon a pamphlet, intituled, The Caſe of Mr. Murray.

Nor was this the only addreſs preſented to the king upon ſuch an important ſubject. A pamphlet, intituled, "The Caſe of the Hon. Alexander Murray, Eſquire, in an Appeal to the People of Great Britain," was firſt ſtigmatized in a complaint to the houſe, and afterwards produced and read at the table. The piece was written with great acrimony, and abounded with ſevere animadverſions, not only upon the conduct of the returning officer, but alſo on the proceedings of the commons. The violent members immediately took fire, and the flame extended itſelf to the majority. Nay, the houſe unanimouſly reſolved, That the pamphlet was an impudent, malicious, ſcandalous, and ſeditious libel, falſely and moſt injuriouſly reflecting upon and aſperſing the proceedings of the houſe, tending to create miſapprehenſions in the minds of the people, to the great diſhonour of the

An. 1751. ſaid houſe, and in violation of the privileges thereof. They furthermore preſented an addreſs to the king, deſiring his majeſty would be graciouſly pleaſed to give directions to his attorney-general to proſecute the authors or author, the printers or printer, and the publiſhers or publiſher of the ſaid ſcandalous libel, in order that they might be brought to condign puniſhment.

Directions were accordingly given for this purpoſe, and a proſecution commenced againſt the publiſher, who had ſome reaſon to be diſmayed, conſidering the great weight of influence he was doomed to encounter; influence ariſing from a proſecution of the crown, inſtituted at the requeſt and founded on a vote of the houſe of commons. Nevertheleſs, when the cauſe was heard before the lord chief juſtice of England, a jury of free-born Engliſhmen, citizens of London, aſſerted their privilege of judging the law as well as the fact, and acquitted the defendant with a truly admirable ſpirit of independency. They conſidered the pamphlet as an appeal againſt oppreſſion; and, convinced that the contents were true, they could not in conſcience adjudge it a falſe libel, even though it had been ſo declared by one of the branches of the legiſlature.

Supplies granted. The commons, in regulating the ſupplies of the enſuing year, voted the continuation of eighteen thouſand eight hundred and fifty-ſeven men for the land-ſervice, though not without ſome oppoſition from certain patriots, who, rather from a ſenſe of duty than from any hope of influencing the majority, affirmed, that ſixteen thouſand men, in time of peace, would anſwer all the ends propoſed by a ſtand-

ſtanding army. The number of ſeamen was fixed at ten thouſand: large ſums were granted to make up deficiencies, and fulfil the engagements of the crown with the electors of Bavaria and Saxony, as well as for the maintenance of Nova Scotia and Georgia, and the caſtles on the coaſt of Guinea; and one hundred and twelve thouſand one hundred and fifty-two pounds three ſhillings and three-pence were voted, as a full compenſation to the old royal African company for their excluſive charter and property, to be applied for the relief of their creditors. Theſe expences were defrayed by a continuation of the duties on malt, &c. a land-tax, at three ſhillings in the pound; a duty on licences, to be yearly payed by pawnbrokers and dealers in ſecond-hand goods, within the bills of mortality; the ſum of one million four hundred thouſand pounds, advanced by the bank, according to a propoſal made for that purpoſe; five hundred thouſand pounds to be iſſued from the ſinking fund; a duty laid on gum ſenega; and the continuation of divers other occaſional impoſitions. The grants for the year amounted to ſomething leſs than four millions, and the proviſions made for this expence exceeded it in the ſum of two hundred ſeventy-one thouſand twenty-four pounds ten ſhillings and ſix-pence half-penny. An. 1751.

The laws enacted for the encouragement of traffic, and the regulations of civil polity, conſiſted in an act for licenſing pawnbrokers, and for the more effectual preventing the receiving of ſtolen goods: another for preventing thefts and robberies, by which places of entertainment, dancing, and muſic in London, Weſtminſter, and within twenty An. 1752. Civil regulations.

An. 1752. twenty miles of the capital, were ſuppreſſed and prohibited, unleſs the proprietors of them could obtain the ſanction of licences from the juſtices of the peace, impowered for that purpoſe: a third for annexing the forfeited eſtates in Scotland unalienably in the crown, after having made ſatisfaction to the lawful creditors; eſtabliſhing a method of leaſing theſe eſtates, and applying the rents and profits of them for the better civilizing and improving the Highlands, and preventing future diſorders in that part of the united kingdom. Nothing could be more ſalutary than the purpoſes of theſe regulations. The ſuburbs of the metropolis abounded with an incredible number of public houſes, that continually reſounded with the noiſe of riot and intemperance: they were the haunts of idleneſs, fraud, and rapine; and the ſeminaries of drunkenneſs, debauchery, extravagance, and every vice incident to human nature: yet the ſuppreſſion of theſe receptacles of infamy was attended with an inconvenience, which, in ſome caſes, aroſe even to a degree of oppreſſion. The juſtices being veſted, by the legiſlature, with the power of granting or refuſing licences, were conſtituted, in effect, the arbiters on whoſe deciſion the fortunes and livelihood of many individuals abſolutely depended. Many of thoſe who exerciſed this ſpecies of magiſtracy, within the bills of mortality, were, to the reproach of government, men of profligate lives, needy, mean, ignorant, and rapacious, and often acted from the moſt ſcandalous principles of ſelfiſh avarice.

The law relating to the Highlands of Scotland was well calculated for promoting, among the inhabitants of that country, ſuch a ſpirit of induſtry

as

as might detach them from their dangerous connexions, and gradually ſuperſede that military genius which had been ſo productive of danger and alarm to the ſouthern parts of Great Britain. The king, by this act, was impowered to appoint commiſſioners for managing the forfeited eſtates: theſe were enabled to grant leaſes of ſmall farms, not above twenty pounds a year, to individuals, who ſhould take the oaths to the government, to reſide upon and cultivate the lands thus let. It was alſo provided, that no leaſe ſhould be granted for a longer term than twenty-one years; and that the leſſees ſhould not pay above three-fourths of the annual value. An. 1752. Law relating to the forfeited eſtates in North Britain.

Although theſe forfeited eſtates were generally encumbered with claims beyond their real value, and the act directed that they ſhould be diſpoſed of by public ſale; yet, as they lay in the moſt diſaffected parts of the Highlands, it was thought neceſſary that they ſhould remain in the poſſeſſion of the crown, becauſe, in caſe of their being publicly ſold, they might be purchaſed in truſt for the families of the perſons by whom they were forfeited, and thus the ſpirit of diſaffection would ſtill ſurvive. A valuation, therefore, was made by the court of ſeſſion in Scotland, at the joint ſuit of the crown and the creditors; and the value being aſcertained, the juſt claimants were, to that amount, paid out of the next aids granted by parliament.

The bill met with conſiderable oppoſition in the houſe of peers from the duke of Bedford and the earl of Bath, who probably foreſaw that the good effects of this ſcheme, ſo laudable in itſelf, would be fruſtrated in the execution; and that the act, in-

An. 1752. ſtead of anſwering the purpoſes for which it was intended, would ſerve only as a job to gratify the rapacious retainers to the government, and their emiſſaries in that country. After a warm debate, however, it was adopted by a great majority, and obtained the royal aſſent.

A new conſolidation of certain funds.

A third law related to certain articles of the national debt, which were now converted into ſeveral joint ſtocks of annuities, transferable at the bank of England, to be charged on the ſinking fund. A great number of different funds for annuities, eſtabliſhed at different times, and by different acts, at this period ſubſiſted; ſo that it was neceſſary to keep many different accounts, which could not be regulated without conſiderable trouble and expence, for the removal of which the bill was calculated.

Two ports opened for the importation of Iriſh wool, &c.

In conſequence of petitions from the woollen manufacturers of Weſtmoreland and Yorkſhire, two bills were brought in, and paſſed through both houſes, by which the ports of Lancaſter and Great Yarmouth were opened for the importation of wool and woollen yarn from Ireland; but why this privilege was not extended to all the frequented ports of the kingdom it is not eaſy to conceive, without ſuppoſing a little national jealouſy on one hand, and a great deal of grievous reſtraint on the other.

Over and above theſe new laws, ſome unſucceſsful endeavours were uſed in behalf of commerce and police. A bill was offered for laying further reſtrictions on pawnbrokers and brokers, that they might no longer ſuck the blood of the poor, and act as the acceſſaries of theft and robbery. It was canvaſſed, debated, and made its way through the

lower

lower houſe; but the lords rejected it as a crude ſcheme, which they could not amend, becauſe it was a money-bill, not cognizable by their houſe, unleſs they ſhould determine to engage in a diſpute with the commons. An. 1752.

Another bill was prepared for giving power to change the puniſhment of felony, in certain caſes, to confinement and hard labour in dock-yards or garriſons. There cannot be a greater ſoleciſm in law, nor a more flagrant error in civil government, than the practice of inflicting the ſame puniſhment on crimes of different complexions, eſſentially different in the degrees of guilt, as well as in their conſequences to the community. What, for example, can be more repugnant to the fundamental principles of juſtice, as well as to the ſagacity of civil regulation, than the undiſtinguiſhing inſtitution which decrees the ſame penalty againſt the felon who robs his neighbour of five ſhillings, and the execrable homicide who murders his benefactor? It was the opinion of many who wiſhed well to their country, and were properly qualified to proſecute ſuch inquiries, that the practice of conſigning ſuch a number of wretches to the hands of the executioner, ſerved only, by its frequency, to defeat the purpoſe of law, in robbing death of all its terror, and the public of many ſubjects, who might, notwithſtanding their delinquency, be in ſome meaſure rendered uſeful to ſociety. Such was the motive that influenced the promoters of this bill; by which it was propoſed, in imitation of that œconomy practiſed in other countries, to confine felons convicted, under certain circumſtances, to hard labour upon the public works of the kingdom.

An. 1752. dom. The ſcheme was adopted by the lower houſe, but rejected by the lords, who ſeemed apprehenſive of its bringing ſuch diſcredit upon his majeſty's dock-yards as would diſcourage perſons, who valued their reputation, from engaging in ſuch employment. This objection, however, was a meer conjecture, unſupported by evidence and experience, and not very plauſible in point of probability. We know that ſlaves and felons are employed in public works by other nations, without producing any ſuch conſequences: nor can we conceive how the character of a reputable workman ſhould be affected by the ſervice of a malefactor, ſo evidently diſtinguiſhed from a free ſubject by the badges of infamy and ſlavery.

Of ſtill greater importance to the nation was the next meaſure propoſed, in a bill for making the militia of England more uſeful, preſented by Mr. Thornton, a gentleman of Yorkſhire, who had diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his loyalty and patriotiſm. It was canvaſſed in a committee of the whole houſe, and underwent divers amendments; but miſcarried, through the averſion of the miniſtry to any project tending to remove or leſſen the neceſſity of maintaining a ſtanding army.

A conſiderable number of petitions for different regulations, in reſpect to commerce and convenience of traffic, were preſented, conſidered, and left upon the table.

A remonſtrance from the priſoners confined in the gaol of the King's Bench, complaining of their miſerable ſituation, ariſing from the want of room, and other conveniencies, being taken into conſideration by a committee, among other evidences, they

they examined that remarkable perſonage who had ſignalized himſelf in different parts of Chriſtendom, under the name of Theodore king of Corſica. Though formerly countenanced, and even treated as a ſovereign prince by the Britiſh miniſtry, he was now reduced to the forlorn condition of a confined debtor; and, to the reproach of this kingdom, died in priſon, ſurrounded with all the miſery of indigence, and overwhelmed with the infirmities of old age. An. 1752.

But the moſt remarkable circumſtance of the parliamentary tranſactions that diſtinguiſhed this ſeſſion, was a motion made in both houſes for an addreſs to the king, beſeeching his majeſty, That, in time of public tranquillity, he would be graciouſly pleaſed to avoid entering into ſubſidiary treaties with foreign princes, which are ſo burthenſome to this nation. This extraordinary propoſal was made and ſtrenuouſly urged by the duke of B—, and a vehement debate enſued, in which the earls of G—, S—, and H—, oppoſed it with an exertion of ſuperior abilities; and the queſtion being put, was carried in the negative, without a diviſion. The ſame fate attended it in the houſe of commons, where it was introduced by lord H—y, and ſupported by ſome diſtinguiſhed orators.

Finally, the ſeſſion expired in the latter end of March, when his majeſty, having given his aſſent to ninety-five public and private bills, harangued both houſes, and prorogued the parliament †.

Im-

† Among the proceedings of this ſeſſion it may not be improper to mention a new act for the prevention of murders, which had been ſhockingly frequent of late, importing, That every criminal convicted of this horrid crime ſhould

An. 1752. Immediately after the prorogation the king appointed a regency, and ſet out for Hanover, in order to complete the great ſcheme he had projected for electing a king of the Romans. Great Britain, in the mean time, produced no event of importance, or any tranſaction that deſerves hiſtorical mention, except the ratification of two treaties of peace and commerce with the ſtates of Tripoli and Tunis on the coaſt of Barbary, concluded by the Britiſh conſuls in thoſe cities, under the influence and auſpices of an Engliſh ſquadron, commanded by commodore Keppel, ſon to the earl of Albemarle.

The king ſets out for Hanover.

The tide of luxury ſtill flowed with an impetuous current, bearing down all the mounds of temperance and decorum; while fraud and profligacy ſtruck out new channels, through which they eluded the reſtrictions of the law, and all the vigilance of civil policy. New arts of deception were invented, in order to enſnare and ruin the unwary; and ſome infamous practices, in the way of commerce, were countenanced by perſons of rank and importance in the commonwealth. A certain member of parliament was obliged to withdraw himſelf from his country, in conſequence of a diſcovery, by which it appeared that he had contrived and executed ſchemes for deſtroying his own ſhips at ſea, with a view to defraud the inſurers.

Affairs of the continent.

In the courſe of this year the affairs of the continent did not undergo any material alteration. In

ſhould be executed in one day after his ſentence, and his body be delivered to the ſurgeons for diſſection: an expedient which, how ineffectual ſoever it may appear in theory, hath been found in practice productive of very ſalutary conſequences.

France

France the religious diſpute concerning the doc- An. 1752.
trine of Janſenius, ſtill ſubſiſted between the clergy and the parliament; and ſeemed to acquire additional fuel from the violence of the archbiſhop of Paris, an haughty turbulent prelate, whoſe pride and bigotry were ſufficient to embroil one half of Chriſtendom. The northern powers enjoyed a perfect tranquillity: the States General of the United Provinces were engroſſed by plans of national œconomy. Spain was intent upon extending her commerce, bringing her manufactures to perfection, and repreſſing the inſolence of the Barbary Corſairs: his Portugueſe majeſty endeavoured, by certain peremptory precautions, to check the exportation of gold coin from his dominions; and inſiſted upon inſpecting the books of the Britiſh merchants ſettled at Lisbon; but they refuſed to comply with this demand, which was contrary to a treaty ſubſiſting between the two crowns; and he thought proper to acquieſce in their refuſal. He was much better employed in obtaining from the Pope an abolition of the annual proceſſion called the Auto da fe, one of the moſt horrid triumphs of ſpiritual tyranny. The peace of Italy was ſecured by a defenſive treaty concluded at Madrid between the Emperor, his Catholic majeſty, the king of the Two Sicilies, and the duke of Parma; to which treaty the king of Sardinia afterwards acceded.

With reſpect to the great ſcheme of electing the archduke Joſeph king of the Romans, freſh objections ſeemed to riſe from different quarters. The good underſtanding between the courts of Berlin and Hanover received an additional ſhock, from a diſpute concerning the property of Eaſt Frieſland,

An. 1752. Diſpute between Hanover and Pruſſia, concerning Eaſt Frieſland.

which his Pruſſian majeſty had ſecured as heir to the laſt poſſeſſor. His Britannic majeſty, as elector of Hanover, having pretenſions to the ſame inheritance, his miniſter delivered a memorial to the dyet of the Empire, aſſembled at Ratisbon, demanding that the king of Pruſſia, as elector of Brandenburg, ſhould be referred to the deciſion of the Aulic council, in regard to his claim to the eſtates of Eaſt Frieſland: but the king being already in poſſeſſion, refuſed to ſubmit his right to the determination of that or any other tribunal; and when the dyet preſumed to deliberate on this affair, his envoy entered a ſtrong proteſt againſt their proceedings. At the ſame time he preſented the other miniſters with a memorial, tending to refute the elector of Hanover's pretenſions to the principality in queſtion.

Miſunderſtanding between the courts of London and Berlin.

At this juncture his Pruſſian majeſty made no ſcruple of expreſſing his reſentment againſt the court of London, which he ſeemed to conſider as an officious cabal, that had no right to intermeddle in the affairs of Germany. His reſident at London complained to the Britiſh miniſtry, that divers ſhips, ſailing under the Pruſſian flag, had been ſtopped at ſea, and even ſeized by Engliſh cruiſers; and that his ſubjects had been ill-treated and oppreſſed: he therefore demanded reparation in a peremptory tone; and, in the mean time, diſcontinued the payment of the Sileſian loan, which he had charged himſelf with by an article in the treaty of Breſlau. This was a ſum of money amounting to two hundred and fifty thouſand pounds, which the emperor Charles VI. father of the reigning Empreſs, had borrowed of the ſubjects of Great

Britain, on condition of paying an intereſt of ſix per centum, and mortgaging the ſilver mines of Sileſia for the repayment of the principal. Theſe devolved to the king of Pruſſia with this incumbrance, and he continued to pay the intereſt punctually till this juncture, when the payment was ſtopped; and he publiſhed a paper, intituled, An Expoſition of the Motives which influenced his Conduct on this Occaſion. In his memorial to the miniſtry of Great Britain he alledged, That eighteen Pruſſian ſhips, and thirty-three neutral veſſels, in which the ſubjects of Pruſſia were concerned, had been unjuſtly ſeized by Engliſh privateers: his account of damages amounted to a very conſiderable ſum; and he demanded, in the moſt dogmatic terms, that the affair ſhould be finally diſcuſſed in the term of three months from the date of his remonſtrance. The Expoſition and Memorial were ſubjected to the examination of the ableſt civilians in England, who refuted every article of the charge with equal preciſion and perſpicuity. They proved, that captures by ſea fell properly under the cognizance of thoſe powers under whoſe juriſdiction the ſeizures were made; and, therefore, his Pruſſian majeſty could not, conſiſtent with the law of nations, determine theſe diſputes in his own tribunals. They demonſtrated, by undoubted evidence, the falſity of many facts alledged in the memorial, as well as the fairneſs of the proceedings by which ſome few of the Pruſſian veſſels had been condemned; and made it appear, that no inſult or injury had been offered to the ſubjects of Pruſſia. Finally, they obſerved, that the Sileſia loan was a private tranſaction of ſuch a nature, that, even if a An. 1752.

An. 1752. war had happened between the emperor Charles VI. and his Britannic majeſty, this muſt have been held ſacred and inviolable: that when the Empreſs-queen ceded Sileſia to the king of Pruſſia, this monarch charged himſelf with the repayment of the loan, which, being a private debt, and tranſferable, was now diffuſed into different countries, and become the property of many others beſides the ſubjects of Great Britain. They wound up their chain of reaſoning by obſerving, that, according to agreement with the Emperor, the whole of this loan ſhould have been repayed in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-five; whereas the complaints ſpecified in the Pruſſian memorial were founded on facts poſterior to that period.

Whether his Pruſſian majeſty was convinced by theſe reaſons, and deſiſted from principle, or he thought proper to give up his claim upon other political conſiderations; certain it is, he no longer inſiſted upon ſatisfaction, but ordered the payments of the Sileſia loan to be continued without further interruption: a report, indeed, was circulated, that advantage had been taken of the demur by a certain prince, who employed his agents to buy up great part of the loan at a conſiderable diſcount.

Improvement of Pomerania.

How much ſoever the king of Pruſſia may be the ſubject of cenſure on this occaſion, it muſt be allowed, that, with regard to his own ſubjects, he acted as a wiſe legiſlator, and the father of his country. He peopled the deſerts of Pomerania, by encouraging, with royal bounties, a great number of induſtrious emigrants to ſettle in that province; the face of which, in a very few years, underwent

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the moſt agreeable alteration. Above ſixty new villages aroſe amidſt a barren waſte, and every part of the country exhibited marks of ſucceſsful cultivation. Thoſe ſolitary and deſolate plains, where no human footſteps had for many ages been ſeen, were now converted into fields of corn. The farms were regularly parcelled out: the houſes multiplied, and teemed with population: the happy peaſants, ſheltered in a peculiar manner under their king's protection, ſowed their grounds in peace, and reaped their harveſts in ſecurity. The ſame care and indulgence were extended to the unpeopled parts of other provinces within the Pruſſian dominions; and extraordinary encouragement was granted to all French proteſtants who ſhould come and ſettle under the government of this political ſage. An. 1752.

Treaty with the elector Palatine.

The courts of Vienna and Hanover ſtill employed their chief attention upon the ſcheme of electing a king of the Romans; and the elector of Mentz, influenced by the majority of the college, had convoked an electoral dyet for that purpoſe: but ſtrong proteſts againſt this convocation were entered by the electors of Cologne and Palatine, inſomuch that it was thought expedient to conciliate this laſt by taking ſome ſteps in his favour, with reſpect to the ſatisfaction he demanded from the Empreſs queen and his Britannic majeſty. His claim upon the court of Vienna amounted to three millions of florins, by way of indemnification for the loſſes he had ſuſtained during the war. He demanded of the king of England twenty thouſand pounds ſterling, for proviſion and forage furniſhed to the Britiſh troops while they acted on the Maine;

An. 1753. and the like ſum for the like purpoſes from the States General of the United Provinces. The Empreſs-queen could not help remonſtrating againſt this demand as exorbitant in itſelf, and the more unreaſonable as the elector Palatine, at the death of her father, had openly declared againſt the pragmatic ſanction, which he had guarantied in the moſt ſolemn manner: ſhe therefore obſerved, that the damage he had ſuſtained, in conſequence of that declaration, ought to be conſidered as the common fate of war. Theſe reaſons, though concluſive and irrefragable in the uſual way of arguing, made no impreſſion upon the Palatine, who perfectly well underſtood his own importance, and was determined to ſeize this opportunity of turning it to the beſt advantage.

The court of Vienna, and the Maritime Powers, finding him thus obſtinately attached to his own intereſt, reſolved to bring him over to their views at any rate, and commenced a negotiation with him, which produced a formal treaty. By this convention his demands in money were fixed at twelve hundred thouſand Dutch florins, to be payed at three inſtalments, five hundred thouſand by the Empreſs-queen, and the remaining ſeven hundred thouſand by the king of Great Britain and the States General, according to the proportion eſtabliſhed in former treaties. The privilege of Non appellando, for the dutchy of Deux-ponts, was confirmed to his electoral highneſs, together with ſome other rights and pretenſions, in conſideration of his concurring with the other electors in the choice of a king of the Romans, to be elected according to the cuſtoms preſcribed by the laws and conſti-

tutions

tutions of the Empire. He likewiſe engaged to join them in ſettling the articles of the capitulation with the king of the Romans, emperor in futuro. Yet, even after the concurrence of this prince was ſecured, the purpoſed election proved abortive, from the ſtrong objections that were ſtarted and the ſtrenuous oppoſition which was made by his Pruſſian majeſty, who perhaps aſpired in ſecret at the Imperial dignity, which the Empreſs-queen took all this pains to perpetuate in her own family. An. 1753.

The king of Great Britain, returning from the continent, opened the ſeſſion of parliament on the eleventh day of January with a ſpeech, importing, That all his views and negotiations had been calculated and directed to preſerve and ſecure the duration of the general peace, ſo agreeable and neceſſary to the welfare of all Europe: That he had the ſatisfaction to be aſſured of a good diſpoſition in all the powers, that were his allies, to adhere to the ſame ſalutary object. He exhorted them to continue their attention to the reduction of the national debt, the augmentation of the ſinking fund, and the improvement of the public revenue. He recommended to their ſerious conſideration what further laws and regulations might be neceſſary for ſuppreſſing thoſe crimes and diſorders, of which the public had ſo juſtly complained: and concluded with an aſſurance, that his hearty concurrence and endeavours ſhould never be wanting in any meaſure that might promote their welfare and proſperity. Seſſion of parliament.

The addreſſes, in anſwer to this ſpeech, were couched in the uſual form of implicit approba-

An. 1753. tion; but that of the commons did not paſs without queſtion. The earl of E—— took exceptions to one paragraph, in which they acknowledged his majeſty's wiſdom, as well as goodneſs, in purſuing ſuch meaſures as muſt contribute to maintain and render permanent the general tranquillity in Europe; and declared their ſatisfaction at the aſſurances his majeſty had received from his allies, that they were all attached to the ſame ſalutary object. His lordſhip expatiated on the abſurdity of theſe compliments at ſuch a juncture, when the peace of Europe was ſo precarious, and the Engliſh nation had ſo much cauſe of complaint and diſſatisfaction. He was ſeconded by ſome other individuals, who declaimed with great vivacity againſt continental connections; and endeavoured to expoſe the weakneſs and folly of the whole ſyſtem of foreign meaſures, which our miniſtry had lately purſued.

It muſt be owned, indeed, that they might have choſen a better opportunity to compliment their ſovereign on the permanency of the peace than at this juncture, when they muſt have ſeen themſelves at the very brink of a new rupture with the moſt formidable power in Europe. But the truth is, theſe addreſſes to the throne had been long conſidered as compliments of courſe, implying no more than a reſpectful attachment to their ſovereign: accordingly both houſes agreed to their reſpective addreſſes without diviſion.

The two grand committees of ſupply and of ways and means being eſtabliſhed, the buſineſs of the houſe was tranſacted without much altercation; and the people had great reaſon to be ſatisfied with their moderate proceedings. Ten thouſand ſea-

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men, and the uſual number of land-forces, were retained for the ſervice of the enſuing year. They provided for the maintenance of the new colony in Nova-Scotia, the civil eſtabliſhment of Georgia, the ſupport of the caſtles on the coaſt of Guinea, and the erection of a new fort at Anamaboa, where the French had attempted to make a ſettlement; and they enabled his majeſty to fulfil his engagements with the king of Poland and the elector of Bavaria. An. 1753.

Supplies for the enſuing year.

The ſupplies, including grants for former deficiencies and ſervices, for which no proviſion had been made in the courſe of the laſt year, did not exceed two millions one hundred thirty-two thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeven pounds ſeventeen ſhillings and two-pence half-penny; in order to defray which expence they aſſigned the duty on malt, &c. the land-tax at two ſhillings in the pound, the ſurplus of certain funds in the Exchequer, and the ſum of four hundred and twenty thouſand pounds out of the ſinking fund; ſo that the exceedings amounted to near three hundred thouſand pounds. Several duties on ſalt, as well as on red and white herrings delivered out for home conſumption, were rendered perpetual, though ſubject to be redeemed by parliament; and it was provided, that the debt contracted upon theſe duties being diſcharged, all the after-produce of them ſhould become part of the ſinking fund.

As for the national debt, it now ſtood at the enormous ſum of ſeventy-four millions three hundred ſixty-eight thouſand four hundred and fifty-one pounds fifteen ſhillings and one penny; and the ſinking fund produced one million ſeven hun-

An. 1753. dred thirty-five thouſand five hundred and twenty-nine pounds ſix ſhillings and ten-pence farthing.

Game-act. One of the firſt meaſures brought upon the carpet, in the courſe of this ſeſſion, was an act containing regulations for the better preſervation of the game, of which ſo great havock had been made by poachers, and other perſons unqualified to enjoy that diverſion, that the total extirpation of it was apprehended.

Act for performing quarentine. The next ſtep taken by the commons was an affair of much greater conſequence to the community, being a bill for obliging ſhips the more effectually to perform quarentine, in order to prevent the plague from being imported from foreign countries into Great Britain. For this purpoſe it was ordained, that if this dreadful viſitation ſhould appear in any ſhip to the northward of Cape Finiſterre, the maſter or commander ſhould immediately proceed to the harbour of New Grimſby, in one of the iſlands of Scilly, and there communicate the diſcovery to ſome officer of the cuſtoms; who ſhould, with the firſt opportunity, tranſmit this intelligence to another cuſtom-houſe officer in the neareſt port of England, to be by him forwarded to one of his majeſty's principal ſecretaries of ſtate. In the mean time the ſhip ſhould remain at the ſaid iſland, and not an individual preſume to go aſhore, until his majeſty's pleaſure ſhould be known. It was alſo provided, that in caſe the maſter of a ſhip, thus infected, ſhould not be able to make the iſlands of Scilly, or be forced up either channel by violent winds, he ſhould not enter any frequented harbour; but remain in ſome open road, until he could receive orders from his majeſty,

jeſty, or the privy-council: that, during this interval, he ſhould avoid all intercourſe with the ſhore, or any perſon or veſſel whatſoever, on pain of being deemed guilty of felony, and ſuffering death without benefit of clergy. An. 1753.

Bill for preventing the plundering of ſhipwrecked veſſels.

In order the more effectually to repreſs the barbarous practice of plundering ſhips, which have the misfortune to ſuffer ſhipwreck; a practice which prevailed upon many different parts of the Britiſh coaſt, to the diſgrace of the nation, and the ſcandal of human nature; a bill was prepared, containing clauſes to enforce the laws againſt ſuch ſavage delinquents, who prowl along the ſhore, like hungry wolves, in hope of preying upon their fellow-creatures; and certain proviſions for the relief of the unhappy ſufferers. By this new law the clerk of the peace, in the county where the crime ſhall be committed, is obliged, upon receiving proper information, to proſecute the offenders at the expence of the county. It was likewiſe propoſed, that in caſe no proſecution of this nature ſhould be commenced within a certain limited time, after the information ſhould have been legally given, in that caſe the county might be ſued by the perſon who had ſuſtained the damage, and obliged to indemnify him for his loſs: but this clauſe was rejected by the majority; and the bill, having made its way through both houſes, received the royal aſſent.

When the mutiny-bill fell under deliberation, the earl of Egmont propoſed a new clauſe for impowering and requiring regimental courts-martial to examine witneſſes, upon oath, in all their trials. The propoſal occaſioned a debate, in which the mi-

An. 1753. miniſtry were pretty equally divided; but the clauſe was diſapproved by the majority, and this annual bill was enacted into a law without any alteration.

Another relating to the bounty on exported corn.

The next bill was framed in conſequence of divers petitions preſented by the exporters of corn, who complained that the bounties were not payed, and prayed, that the houſe would make proper proviſion for that purpoſe. A bill was accordingly brought in, importing, That intereſt, after the rate of three per centum, ſhould be allowed upon every debenture for the bounty on the exportation of corn, payable by the general receiver or caſhier of the cuſtoms, until the principal could be diſcharged out of ſuch cuſtoms or duties as are appropriated for the payment of this bounty. This premium on the exportation of corn ought not to be granted, except when the lowneſs of the market-price in Great Britain proves that there is a ſuperabundance in the kingdom; otherwiſe the exporter will find his account in depriving our own labourers of their bread, in order to ſupply our rivals at an eaſier rate: for example, ſuppoſe wheat in England ſhould ſell for twenty ſhillings a quarter, the merchant might export it to France, and afford it to the people of that kingdom for eighteen ſhillings, becauſe the bounty on exportation would, even at that rate, afford him a conſiderable advantage.

Trade to Turkey laid open.

A great number of merchants having preſented petitions from different parts of the kingdom, repreſenting, that the trade to Turkey was greatly decreaſed, aſcribing this diminution to the excluſive charter enjoyed by a monopoly, and praying, that the trade might be laid open to all his majeſty's

jeſty's ſubjects, one of the members for Liverpool moved for leave to bring in a bill for this purpoſe. Such a meaſure had been twice before propoſed without ſucceſs; but now it was adopted without oppoſition. A bill was immediately introduced; and, notwithſtanding all the intereſt and efforts of the Turkey company, who petitioned the houſe againſt it, and were heard by their counſel, it paſſed through both houſes, and received the royal ſanction. By this regulation any Britiſh ſubject may obtain the freedom of the Turkey company, by paying or tendering a fine of twenty pounds; and all the members are ſecured from the tyranny of oppreſſive bye-laws, contrived by any monopolizing cabal. This indulgence, however, and even all the encouragement which the legiſlature can beſtow, will never retrieve the trade of Turkey or the Levant, while the heavy load of taxes diſables the manufacturer from affording his commodity ſo cheap as it can be ſupplied by our rivals in commerce, who neither groan under ſuch burthens, nor pay ſuch a price for labour. An. 1753.

Several other bills were paſſed: one for regulating the number of public houſes, and the more eaſy conviction of perſons ſelling ale and ſtrong liquors without licence; an act which impowered the juſtices of peace to tyrannize over their fellow ſubjects: a ſecond, enabling the magiſtrates of Edinburgh to improve, enlarge, and adorn the avenues and ſtreets of that city, according to a concerted plan, to be executed by voluntary ſubſcription: a third, allowing the exportation of wool and woollen yarn from Ireland to any port in Great Britain: and a fourth, preſcribing the breadth of the

An. 1753. the wheels belonging to heavy carriages, that the high roads of the kingdom might be the better preſerved.

Naturalization of the Jews.

But this ſeſſion was chiefly diſtinguiſhed by an act for naturalizing Jews, and a bill for the better preventing clandeſtine marriages. The firſt of theſe, which paſſed without much oppoſition in the houſe of lords, from whence it deſcended to the commons, was intituled, "An Act to permit Perſons profeſſing the Jewiſh religion to be naturalized by Parliament, and for other Purpoſes therein mentioned." It was ſupported by ſome petitions of merchants and manufacturers, who, upon examination, appeared to be Jews, or their dependants; and countenanced by the miniſtry, who thought they foreſaw, in the conſequences of ſuch a naturalization, a great acceſſion to the moneyed intereſt, and a conſiderable increaſe of their own influence among the individuals of that community. They boldly affirmed, that ſuch a law would greatly conduce to the advantage of the nation; that it would encourage perſons of wealth to remove with their effects from foreign parts into Great Britain, increaſe the commerce and the credit of the kingdom, and ſet a laudable example of induſtry, temperance, and frugality. Such, however, were not the ſentiments of the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London in common council aſſembled, who, in a petition to parliament, expreſſed their apprehenſion that the bill, if paſſed into a law, would tend greatly to the diſhonour of the chriſtian religion, endanger the excellent conſtitution, and be highly prejudicial to the intereſt and trade of the kingdom in general, and of the city of London

London in particular. To the ſame purpoſe another petition was next day preſented to the houſe, ſubſcribed by merchants and traders of the city of London; who, among other allegations, obſerved, that the conſequences of ſuch a naturalization would greatly affect their trade and commerce with foreign nations, particularly with Spain and Portugal. Counſel was heard, evidence examined, and the bill produced violent debates, in which there ſeemed to be more paſſion than patriotiſm, more declamation than argument. An. 1753.

The adverſaries of the bill affirmed, that ſuch a naturalization would deluge the kingdom with brokers, uſurers, and beggars; that the rich Jews, under the ſhadow of this indulgence, would purchaſe lands, and even advowſons; ſo as not only to acquire an intereſt in the legiſlature, but alſo to influence the conſtitution of the church of Chriſt, to which they were the inveterate and profeſſed enemies: that the lower claſs of that nation, when thus admitted to the right of deniſons, would interfere with the induſtrious natives, who earn their livelihood by their labour; and by dint of the moſt parſimonious frugality, to which the Engliſh are ſtrangers, work at an under-price; ſo as not only to ſhare, but even in a manner to exclude them from all employment: that ſuch an adoption of vagrant Jews into the community, from all parts of the world, would rob the real ſubjects of their birthright, diſgrace the character of the nation, expoſe themſelves to the moſt diſhonourable participation and intruſion, endanger the conſtitution both in church and ſtate, and be an indelible reproach upon the eſtabliſhed religion of the country. Some

of

An. 1753. of theſe orators ſeemed tranſported even to a degree of enthuſiaſm. They prognoſticated that the Jews would multiply ſo much in number, engroſs ſuch wealth, and acquire ſo great power and influence in Great Britain, that their perſons would be revered, their cuſtoms imitated, and Judaiſm become the faſhionable religion of the Engliſh. Finally, they affirmed that ſuch an act was directly flying in the face of the prophecy, which declares, that the Jews ſhall be a ſcattered people, without country or fixed habitation, until they ſhall be converted from their infidelity, and gathered together in the land of their forefathers. Theſe arguments and apprehenſions, which were in reality frivolous and chimerical, being induſtriouſly circulated among the vulgar, naturally prejudiced againſt the Jewiſh people, excited ſuch a ferment throughout the nation, as ought to have deterred the miniſtry from the proſecution of ſuch an unpopular meaſure; which, however, they had courage enough to maintain againſt all oppoſition. The bill paſſed the ordeal of both houſes, and his majeſty vouchſafed the royal ſanction to this law in favour of the Hebrew nation. The truth is, it might have increaſed the wealth, and extended the commerce of Great Britain, had it been agreeable to the people; and as the naturalized Jews would ſtill have been excluded from all civil and military offices, as well as from other privileges enjoyed by their chriſtian brethren, in all probability, they would have gradually forſaken their own unprofitable and obſtinate infidelity, opened their eyes to the ſhining truths of the goſpel, and joined their fellow-ſubjects in embracing the doctrines of Chriſtianity. But no miniſtry ought

ought to risk an experiment, how plausible soever it may be, if they find it, as this was, an object of the people's unconquerable aversion. What rendered this unpopular measure the more impolitic, was the unseasonable juncture at which it was carried into execution; that is, at the eve of a general election for a new parliament; when a minister ought carefully to avoid every step which may give umbrage to the body of the people. The earl of Eg—t, who argued against the bill with equal power and vivacity, in describing the effect it might have upon that occasion, "I am amazed, (said he) that this consideration makes no impression.—When that day, which is not far off, shall arrive, I shall not fear to set my foot upon any ground of election in the kingdom, in opposition to any one man among you, or any new Christian who has voted or appeared in favour of this naturalization." An. 1753.

Another bill, transmitted from the upper-house, met with a reception equally unfavourable among the commons, though it was sustained on the shoulders of the majority, and thus forced its way to the throne, where it obtained the royal approbation. The practice of solemnizing clandestine marriages, so prejudicial to the peace of families, and so often productive of misery to the parties themselves thus united, was an evil that prevailed to such a degree, as claimed the attention of the legislature. The sons and daughters of great and opulent families, before they had acquired knowledge and experience, or attained to the years of discretion, were every day seduced in their affections, and inveigled into matches big with infamy Marriage act.

An. 1753. and ruin; and theſe were greatly facilitated by the opportunities that occurred of being uuited inſtantaneouſly by the ceremony of marriage, in the firſt tranſport of paſſion, before the deſtined victim had time to cool or deliberate on the ſubject. For this pernicious purpoſe there was a band of profligate miſcreants, the refuſe of the clergy, dead to every ſentiment of virtue, abandoned to all ſenſe of decency and decorum, for the moſt part priſoners for debt or delinquency, and indeed the very outcaſts of human ſociety, who hovered about the verge of the Fleet-priſon to intercept cuſtomers, plying like porters for employment, and performed the ceremony of marriage without licence or queſtion; in cellars, garrets, or alehouſes, to the ſcandal of religion, and the diſgrace of that order which they profeſſed. The eaſe with which this eccleſiaſtical ſanction was obtained, and the vicious diſpoſition of thoſe wretches, open to the practices of fraud and corruption, were productive of polygamy, indigence, conjugal infidelity, proſtitution, and every curſe that could imbitter the married ſtate.

A remarkable caſe of this nature having fallen under the cognizance of the peers, in an appeal from an inferior tribunal, that houſe ordered the judges to prepare a new bill for preventing ſuch abuſes; and one was accordingly framed, under the auſpices of lord H——, at that time lord high chancellor of England. In order to anticipate the bad effects of clandeſtine marriages, this new ſtatute enacted, That the banns ſhould be regularly publiſhed, three ſucceſſive Sundays, in the church of the pariſh where the parties dwell: That

YORKE Earl of *HARDWICKE*.

That no licence ſhould be granted to marry in any place, where one of the parties has not dwelt at leaſt a month, except a ſpecial licence by the archbiſhop: That if any marriage ſhould be ſolemnized in any other place than a church, or a chapel, without a ſpecial licence, or in a public chapel, without having publiſhed the banns, or obtained a licence of ſome perſon properly qualified, the marriage ſhould be void, and the perſon who ſolemnized it tranſported for ſeven years: That marriages, by licence, of parties under age, without conſent of parent or guardian, ſhould be null and void, unleſs the party under age be a widow, and the parent refuſing conſent a widow married again: That when the conſent of a mother or guardian is refuſed from caprice, or ſuch parent or guardian be non compos mentis, or beyond ſea, the minor ſhould have recourſe for relief to the court of Chancery: That no ſuit ſhould be commenced to compel a celebration of marriage, upon pretence of any contract: That all marriages ſhould be ſolemnized before two witneſſes, and an entry be made in a book, kept for that purpoſe, whether it was by banns or licence, whether either of the parties was under age, or the marriage celebrated with the conſent of parent or guardian; and this entry to be ſigned by the miniſter, the parties, and the witneſſes: That a falſe licence or certificate, or deſtroying regiſter-books, ſhould be deemed felony, either in principal or acceſſary, and puniſhed with death. An. 1753.

The bill, when firſt conſidered in the lower houſe, gave riſe to a variety of debates; in which the members appeared to be divided rather accord-

An. 1753. ing to their real ſentiments, than by the rules of any political diſtinction: for ſome principal ſervants of the government freely differed in opinion from the miniſter, who countenanced the bill; while, on the other hand, he was, on this occaſion, ſupported by certain chiefs of the oppoſition, and the diſputes were maintained with extraordinary eagerneſs and warmth. The principal objections imported, that ſuch reſtrictions on marriage would damp the ſpirit of love and propagation; promote mercenary matches, to the ruin of domeſtic happineſs, as well as to the prejudice of poſterity and population; impede the circulation of property, by preſerving the wealth of the kingdom among a kind of ariſtocracy of opulent families, who would always intermarry within their own pale; ſubject the poor to many inconveniences, and extraordinary expence, from the nature of the forms to be obſerved; and throw an additional power into the hands of the chancellor. They affirmed, that no human power had a right to diſſolve a vow ſolemnly made in the ſight of heaven; and that, in proportion as the bill prevented clandeſtine marriages it would encourage fornication and debauchery, inaſmuch as the parties reſtrained from indulging their mutual paſſions in an honourable manner, would be tempted to gratify them by ſtealth, at the hazard of their reputation. In a word, they foreſaw a great number of evils in the train of this bill, which have not yet been realized. On the other ſide, its advocates endeavoured to refute theſe arguments, and ſome of them ſpoke with great ſtrength and preciſion. The bill underwent a great number of alterations and amendments, which were not effected with-

without violent conteſt and altercation. At length, however, it was floated through both houſes on the tide of a great majority, and ſteered into the ſafe harbour of royal approbation. An. 1753.

Certain it is, the abuſe of clandeſtine marriage might have been removed upon much eaſier terms than thoſe impoſed upon the ſubject by this bill, which, after all, hath been found ineffectual, as it may be eaſily eluded by a ſhort voyage to the continent, or a moderate journey to North Britain, where the indiſſoluble knot may be tied without ſcruple or interruption.

Deliberations concerning the ſugar-colonies.

Over and above theſe new ſtatutes, there were ſome other ſubjects which occaſionally employed the attention of the commons; ſuch as the ſtate of the Britiſh ſugar-colonies, which was conſidered in conſequence of petitions preſented by the ſugar-refiners and grocers of London, Weſtminſter, and Briſtol, complaining of the exorbitant price demanded and given for ſugars imported from Jamaica; deſiring, that the proprietors of land in Jamaica might be obliged to cultivate greater quantities of ground for raiſing ſugar canes, or that they (the petitioners) might have leave to import muſcovado ſugars from other countries, when the price of thoſe imported from Jamaica ſhould exceed a certain rate. This remonſtrance was taken into conſideration by a committee of the whole houſe; and a great number of evidences and papers being examined, they reſolved, That the peopling of Jamaica with white inhabitants, and cultivating the lands thereof, would be the moſt proper meaſure for ſecuring that iſland, and increaſing the trade and navigation between it and Great Britain,

An. 1753. and other parts of his majeſty's dominions: That the endeavours hitherto uſed by the legiſlature of Jamaica to increaſe the number of white inhabitants, and enforce the cultivation of lands, in the manner that might beſt conduce to the ſecurity and defence of that iſland, had not been effectual for theſe purpoſes. The houſe ordered a bill to be founded on theſe reſolutions; but this was poſtponed, until the miniſtry ſhould receive more full information touching the true ſtate of that iſland.

The planters of Jamaica laboured under many grievances and hardſhips, from divers heavy impoſitions and reſtrictions; and a detail of theſe was tranſmitted in a repreſentation to his majeſty, which was referred to the conſideration of the commiſſioners of trade and plantations.

The cauſe of the planters was defended vigorouſly, and managed in the houſe of commons by alderman Beckford, a gentleman of vaſt poſſeſſions in the iſland of Jamaica, who perfectly well underſtood and ſtrenuouſly ſupported the intereſt of that his native country.

Fate of the regiſter-bill.

Abortive alſo proved the attempt to eſtabliſh a law for keeping an annual regiſter of marriages, births, deaths, the individuals who received alms, and the total number of people in Great Britain. A bill for this purpoſe was preſented by Mr. Potter, a gentleman of pregnant parts and ſpirited elocution, who, enumerating the advantages of ſuch a law, obſerved, that it would aſcertain the number of the people, and the collective ſtrength of the nation; conſequently point out thoſe places where there is a defect or exceſs of population,

and

and certainly determine whether a general naturali- An. 1753.
zation would be advantageous or prejudicial to the community; that it would decide what number of men might, on any ſudden emergency, be levied for the defence of the kingdom; and whether the nation is gainer or loſer by ſending its natives to ſettle, and our troops to defend diſtant colonies; that it would be the means of eſtabliſhing a local adminiſtration of civil government, or a police upon certain fixed principles, the want of which hath been long a reproach to the nation, a ſecurity to vice, and an encouragement to idleneſs; that in many caſes, where all other evidence is wanting, it would enable ſuitors to recover their right in courts of juſtice, facilitate an equal and equitable aſſeſſment in raiſing the preſent taxes, and laying future impoſitions; ſpecify the lineal deſcents, relations, and alliances of families; lighten the intolerable burthens incurred, by the public, from innumerable and abſurd regulations relating to the poor; provide for them by a more equal exertion of humanity, and effectually ſcreen them from all riſque of periſhing by hunger, cold, cruelty, and oppreſſion. Whether ſuch a law would have anſwered the ſanguine expectations of its patron, we ſhall not pretend to determine; though, in our opinion, it muſt have been attended with very ſalutary conſequences, particularly in reſtraining the hand of robbery and violence, in detecting fraud, bridling the ferocity of a licentious people, and eſtabliſhing a happy ſyſtem of order and ſubordination. At firſt the bill met with little oppoſition, except from Mr. Thornton, member for the city of York, who inveighed againſt it with great fervour, as a mea-

An. 1753. ſure that ſavoured of French policy, to which the Engliſh nation ever had the utmoſt averſion. He affirmed, that the method in which it was propoſed this regiſter ſhould be kept, would furniſh the enemies of Great Britain with continual opportunities of knowing the ſtrength or weakneſs of the nation; that it would impower an ill-deſigning miniſter to execute any ſcheme ſubverſive of public liberty, inveſt pariſh and petty officers of the peace with exorbitant powers, and coſt the nation above fifty thouſand pounds a year to carry the ſcheme into execution. Theſe arguments, which, we apprehend, are extremely frivolous and inconcluſive, had great weight with a conſiderable number, who joined in the oppoſition, while the miniſtry ſtood neutral. Nevertheleſs, after having undergone ſome amendments, it was conveyed to the lords, by whom it was, at the ſecond reading, thrown out, as a ſcheme of a very dangerous tendency. The legiſlature of Great Britain have, on ſome occaſions, been more ſtartled at the diſtant ſhadow of a bare poſſibility, than at the real approach of the moſt dangerous innovation.

The parliament purchaſes the muſeum of Sir Hans Sloane.

From the uſual deliberations on civil and commercial concerns, the attention of the parliament, which had ſeldom or never turned upon literary avocations, was called off by an extraordinary ſubject of this nature. Sir Hans Sloane, the celebrated phyſician and naturaliſt, well known through all the civilized countries of Europe for his ample collection of rarities, culled from the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, as well as of antiquities and curioſities of art, had directed, in his laſt will, that this valuable muſeum, together with

his numerous library, ſhould be offered to the parliament for the uſe of the public, in conſideration of their paying a certain ſum, in compenſation, to his heirs. His terms were embraced by the commons, who agreed to pay twenty thouſand pounds for the whole, ſuppoſed to be worth four times that ſum; and a bill was prepared for purchaſing this muſeum, together with the Harleian collection of manuſcripts, ſo denominated from its founder, Robert Harley, earl of Oxford, lord high treaſurer of England, and now offered to the public by his daughter the dutcheſs of Portland. An. 1753.

It was propoſed, that theſe purchaſes ſhould be joined to the famous Cottonian library, and a ſuitable repoſitory provided for them and the king's library, which had long lain neglected, and expoſed to the injuries of the weather in the old dormitory at Weſtminſter. Accordingly truſtees and governors, conſiſting of the moſt eminent perſons of the kingdom, were appointed, and regulations eſtabliſhed for the management of this noble muſeum, which was depoſited in Montague houſe, one of the moſt magnificent edifices in England, where it is ſubjected, without reſerve, to the view of the public, under certain neceſſary reſtrictions, and exhibits a glorious monument of national taſte and liberality †.

In

† The library of Sir Hans Sloane conſiſted of above fifty thouſand volumes, including about three hundred and fifty books of drawings, and three thouſand five hundred and ſixteen manuſcripts, beſides a multitude of prints. The muſeum comprehended an infinite number of medals, coins, urns, utenſils, ſeals, cameos, intaglios, precious ſtones, veſſels of agate and jaſper, chryſtals, ſpars, foſſils, metals,

An. 1753. In the beginning of June the ſeſſion of parliament was cloſed by his majeſty, who mentioned nothing particular in his ſpeech, but that the ſtate of foreign affairs had ſuffered no alteration ſince their meeting.

The genius of the Engliſh people is perhaps incompatible with a ſtate of perfect tranquillity: if it is not ruffled by foreign provocations, or agitated by unpopular meaſures of domeſtic adminiſtration, it will undergo temporary fermentations from the turbulent ingredients inherent in its own conſtitution. Tumults are excited, and factions kindled into rage and inveteracy, by incidents of the moſt frivolous nature. At this juncture the metropolis of England was divided and diſcompoſed, in a ſurpriſing manner, by a diſpute in itſelf of ſo little conſequence to the community, that it could not deſerve a place in a general hiſtory, if it did not ſerve to convey a characteriſtic idea of the Engliſh nation.

Remarkable ſtory of Elizabeth Canning.

In the beginning of the year an obſcure damſel, of low degree, whoſe name was Elizabeth Canning, promulgated a report, which, in a little time, attracted the attention of the public. She affirmed, that on the firſt day of the new year, at night, ſhe was ſeized under Bedlam-wall by two ruffians, who, having ſtripped her of her upper-apparel, ſecured

metals, minerals, ores, earths, ſands, ſalts, bitumens, ſulphurs, amber, ambergriſe, talcs, miræ, teſtaces, corals, ſpunges, echini, echenites, aſteriæ, trochi, cruſtatia, ſtellæ marinæ, fiſhes, birds, eggs, and neſts, vipers, ſerpents, quadrupeds, inſects, human calculi, anatomical preparations, ſeeds, gums, roots, dried plants, pictures, drawings, and mathematical inſtruments. All theſe articles, with a ſhort account of each, are ſpecified in thirty-eight volumes in folio, and eight in quarto.

her

her mouth with a gag, and threatened to murder her ſhould ſhe make the leaſt noiſe, conveyed her on foot about ſix miles to a place called Enfield-waſh, and brought her to the houſe of one Mrs. Wells, where ſhe was pillaged of her ſtays; and, becauſe ſhe refuſed to turn proſtitute, confined in a cold, damp, ſeparate, and unfurniſhed apartment. Here ſhe remained a whole month, without any other ſuſtenance than a few ſtale cruſts of bread, and about a gallon of water; till at length ſhe forced her way through a window, and ran home to her mother's houſe, almoſt naked, in the night of the twenty-ninth of January. An. 1753.

This ſtory, improbable and unſupported, operated ſo ſtrongly on the paſſions of the people in the neighbourhood of Aldermanbury, where Canning's mother lived, and particularly among fanatics of all denominations, that they raiſed voluntary contributions with ſurpriſing eagerneſs, in order to bring the ſuppoſed delinquents to juſtice. Warrants were granted for apprehending Wells, who kept the houſe at Enfield-waſh, and her accomplices, the ſervant-maid, whoſe name was Virtue Hall, and one Squires, an old gipſey-woman, who was charged by Canning with having robbed her of her ſtays. Wells, tho' acquitted of the felony, was puniſhed as a bawd. Hall turned evidence for Canning, but afterwards recanted; and Squires, the gipſey, was convicted of the robbery, altho' ſhe produced undoubted evidence to prove that ſhe was at Abbotſbury in Dorſetſhire that very night in which the felony was ſaid to be committed; and Canning and her friends fell into divers contradictions during the courſe of the trial. By this time the pre-

An. 1753. prepoſſeſſion of the common people in her favour had riſen to ſuch a pitch of enthuſiaſm, that the moſt palpable truths, which appeared on the other ſide, had no other effect than that of exaſperating them to the moſt dangerous degree of rage and revenge. Some of the witneſſes for Squires, tho' perſons of unblemiſhed character, were ſo intimidated that they durſt not enter the court; and thoſe who had reſolution enough to give evidence in her behalf, ran the riſque of aſſaſſination from the vulgar that ſurrounded the place. On this occaſion Sir Criſpe Gaſcoyne, lord-mayor of London, behaved with that laudable courage and humanity which ought ever to diſtinguiſh the chief magiſtrate of ſuch a metropolis. Conſidering the improbability of the charge, the heat, partiality, and blind enthuſiaſm with which it was proſecuted, and being convinced of the old woman's innocence by a great number of affidavits, voluntarily ſent up from the country by perſons of unqueſtionable credit, he, in conjunction with ſome other worthy citizens, reſolved to oppoſe the torrent of vulgar prejudice. Application was made to the throne for mercy: the caſe was referred to the attorney and ſollicitor-general, who, having examined the evidences on both ſides, made their report in favour of Squires to the king and council; and this poor old creature was indulged with his majeſty's pardon.

This affair was now ſwelled up into ſuch a faction as divided the greater part of the kingdom, including the rich as well as the poor, the high as well as the humble. Pamphlets and paſquinades were publiſhed on both ſides of the diſpute, which be-

became the general topic of converſation in all aſ- An. 1753
ſemblies, and people of all ranks eſpouſed one or other party with as much warmth and animoſity as had ever inflamed the Whig and Tories, even, at the moſt rancorous period of their oppoſition. Subſcriptions were opened, and large ſums levied, on one ſide to proſecute for perjury the perſons on whoſe evidence the pardon had been granted. On the other hand, thoſe who had intereſted themſelves for the gipſey reſolved to ſupport her witneſſes, and, if poſſible, detect the impoſture of Canning. Bills of perjury were preferred on both ſides. The evidences for Squires were tried and acquitted: at firſt Canning abſconded; but afterwards ſurrendered, to take her trial; and being, after a long hearing, found guilty, was tranſported to the Britiſh colonies. The zeal of her friends, however, ſeemed to be inflamed by her conviction: and thoſe who carried on the proſecution againſt her were inſulted, even to the danger of their lives. They ſupplied her with neceſſaries of all ſorts, payed for her tranſportation in a private ſhip, where ſhe enjoyed all the comforts and conveniencies that could be afforded in that ſituation, and furniſhed her with ſuch recommendations as ſecured to her a very agreeable reception in New England.

Execution of Dr. Cameron.

Next to this very remarkable tranſaction, the incident that principally diſtinguiſhed this year in England, was the execution of Dr. Archibald Cameron, a native of North Britain, and brother to Cameron of Lochiel, chief of that numerous and warlike tribe, who had taken the field with the prince pretender; and after the battle of Culloden, where

An. 1753. where he was dangerouſly wounded, found means to eſcape to the continent. His brother, the doctor, had accompanied him in all his expeditions, tho' not in a military capacity, and was included with him in the act of attainder paſſed againſt thoſe who had been concerned in the rebellion. Notwithſtanding the imminent danger attending ſuch an attempt, he returned privately to Scotland, in order (as it was reported) to recover a ſum of money belonging to the pretender, which had been embezzled by his adherents in that country. Whatever may have been his inducement to reviſit his native country under ſuch a predicament, certain it is, he was diſcovered, apprehended, conducted to London, confined in the Tower, examined by the privy-council, and produced in the court of King's Bench; where his identity being proved by ſeveral witneſſes, he received ſentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn. The terror and reſentment of the people, occaſioned by the rebellion, having by this time ſubſided, their humane paſſions did not fail to operate in favour of this unfortunate gentlemen: their pity was mingled with eſteem, ariſing from his perſonal character, which was altogether unblemiſhed, and his deportment on this occaſion, which they could not help admiring as the ſtandard of manly fortitude and decorum. The populace, tho' not very ſubject to tender emotions, were moved to compaſſion, and even to tears, by his behaviour at the place of execution. And many ſincere well-wiſhers to the preſent eſtabliſhment thought that the ſacrifice of this victim at ſuch a juncture could not redound either to its honour or ſecurity.

An. 1753.

The turbulent ſpirit, which is never totally extinguiſhed in this iſland, manifeſted itſelf in ſundry tumults that broke out in different parts of South Britain. The price of proviſion, and bread in particular, being raiſed to an exorbitant rate, in conſequence of an abſurd exportation of corn, for the ſake of the bounty, a formidable body of colliers and other labouring people raiſed an inſurrection at Briſtol, began to plunder the corn veſſels in the harbour, and commit ſuch outrages in the city, that the magiſtrates were obliged to have recourſe to the military power. A troop of dragoons were ſent to their aſſiſtance, and the inſurgents were quelled, though not without ſome bloodſhed. Commotions of the ſame kind were excited in Yorkſhire, Mancheſter, and ſeveral other places in the northern counties: at Leeds, a detachment of the king's troops were obliged in their own defence to fire upon the rioters, eight or nine of whom were killed upon the ſpot; and indeed ſo little care had been taken to reſtrain the licentious inſolence of the vulgar by proper laws and regulations, duly executed under the eye of civil magiſtracy, that a military power was found abſolutely neceſſary to maintain the peace of the kingdom.

Tumults in different parts of the kingdom.

The tranquillity of the continent was not endangered by any new conteſt or diſturbance: yet the breach between the clergy and parliament of Paris was every day more and more widened, and the people were pretty equally divided between ſuperſtition and a regard for civil liberty. The parliament having cauſed divers eccleſiaſtics to be apprehended for having refuſed to adminiſter the ſacraments to perſons in extremity, who refuſed to ſubſcribe to the

Diſturbances in France, occaſioned by the bull Unigenitus.

An. 1753. the bull unigenitus, all of them declared they acted according to the direction of the archbiſhop of Paris. Application being made to this haughty prelate, he treated the deputies of the parliament with the moſt ſupercilious contempt, and even ſeemed to brave the power and authority of that body. They, on the other hand, proceeded to take cognizance of the recuſant clergy, until their ſovereign ordered them to deſiſt. Then they preſented remonſtrances to his majeſty, reminding him of their privileges and the duty of their ſtation, which obliged them to do juſtice on all delinquents.

In the mean time they continued to perform their functions, and even commenced a proſecution againſt the biſhop of Orleans, whom they ſummoned to attend their tribunal. Next day they received from Verſailles a lettre de cachet, accompanied by letters patent, commanding them to ſuſpend all proſecutions relating to the refuſal of the ſacraments; and ordering the letters patent to be regiſtered. Inſtead of obeying theſe commands, they preſented new remonſtrances, for anſwers to which they were referred to the king's former declarations. In conſequence of this intimation, they had ſpirit enough to reſolve, "That whereas certain evil minded perſons had prevented truth from reaching the throne, the chambers remained aſſembled, and all other buſineſs ſhould be ſuſpended." The affair was now become very ſerious. His majeſty, by freſh letters patent, renewed his orders, and commanded them to proceed with their ordinary buſineſs, on pain of incurring his diſpleaſure. They forthwith came to another reſolution, importing,

importing, that they could not obey this injunction without a breach of their duty and their oath. Next day letters de cachet were iſſued, baniſhing to different parts of the kingdom all the members except thoſe of the great chamber, which the court did not find more tractable than their brethren. They forthwith reſolved to abide by the two reſolutions mentioned above; and, as an inſtance of their unſhaken fortitude, ordered an eccleſiaſtic to be taken into cuſtody for refuſing the ſacraments. This ſpirited meaſure involved them in the fate of the reſt; for they were alſo exiled from Paris, the citizens of which did not fail to extol their conduct with the loudeſt encomiums, and at the ſame time to expreſs their reſentment againſt the clergy, who could not ſtir abroad without being expoſed to violence or inſult. The example of the parliament of Paris was followed by that of Rouen, which had courage enough to iſſue orders for apprehending the biſhop of Evreux, becauſe he had refuſed to appear when ſummoned to their tribunal. Their decrees on this occaſion being annulled by the king's council of ſtate, they preſented a bold remonſtrance; which, however, had no other effect than that of exaſperating the miniſtry. A grand deputation being ordered to attend the king, they were commanded to deſiſt from intermeddling in diſputes relating to the refuſal of the ſacraments, and to regiſter this injunction. At their return they had recourſe to a new remonſtrance; and one of their principal counſellors, who had ſpoken freely in the debates on this ſubject, was arreſted by a party of dragoons, who carried him priſoner to the caſtle of Dourlens. In a word, the body of An. 1753.

An. 1753. the people declared for the parliament, in oppoſition to eccleſiaſtical tyranny; and had they not been overawed by a formidable ſtanding army, would certainly have taken up arms in defence of their liberties: while the monarch weakly ſuffered himſelf to be governed by prieſtly deluſions; and, ſecure in his military appointments, ſeemed to ſet the reſt of his ſubjects at defiance. Apprehenſive, however, that theſe diſputes would put an entire ſtop to the adminiſtration of juſtice, he, by letters patent, eſtabliſhed a royal chamber for the proſecution of ſuits civil and criminal, which was opened with a ſolemn maſs performed in the queen's chapel at the Louvre, where all the members aſſiſted. On this occaſion another difficulty occurred. The letters patent conſtituting this new court ought to have been regiſtered by the parliament, which was now no more. To remedy this defect, application was made to the inferior court of the Chatelet; which refuſing to regiſter them, one of its members was committed to the Baſtile, and another abſconded. Intimidated by this exertion of deſpotic power, they allowed the king's officers to enter the letters in their regiſter; but afterwards adopted more vigorous reſolutions. The lieutenant civil appearing in their court, all the counſellors roſe up and retired, leaving him alone, and on the table an arret, importing, That whereas the confinement of one of their members, the perſecution of another, who durſt not appear, and the preſent calamities of the nation, gave them juſt apprehenſion for their own perſons, they had, after mature deliberation, thought proper to retire. Thus a dangerous ferment was excited by

the king's eſpouſing the cauſe of ſpiritual inſolence and oppreſſion againſt the general voice of his people, and the plaineſt dictates of reaſon and common ſenſe. An. 1753.

Proceedings of the diet of the empire relating to East Frieſland.

The property of East Frieſland continued ſtill to be the ſource of contention between the electors of Brandenburg and Hanover. The intereſts of his Britannic majeſty being powerfully ſupported by the houſe of Auſtria, the miniſter of that power at the diet propoſed that the affair ſhould be taken into immediate conſideration. He was ſeconded by the miniſter of Brunſwic; but the envoy from Brandenburg having proteſted in form againſt this procedure, withdrew from the aſſembly, and the Brunſwic miniſter made a counter-proteſtation, after which he alſo retired. Then a motion being made that this diſpute ſhould be referred to the deciſion of the Aulic council at Vienna, it was carried in the affirmative by a majority of fourteen voices. His Pruſſian majeſty's final declaration, with regard to this affair, was afterwards preſented to the diet, and anſwered in the ſequel by a memorial from his Britannic majeſty as elector of Hanover. Some other petty diſputes likewiſe happened between the regency of Hanover and the city of Munſter; and the former claiming ſome bailiwicks in the territories of Bremen, ſequeſtered certain revenues belonging to this city, in Stade and Ferden, until theſe claims ſhould be ſatisfied.

Extraordinary treaty between the court of Vienna and the duke of Modena.

The court of Vienna having dropped for the preſent the ſcheme of electing a king of the Romans, concluded a very extraordinary treaty with the duke of Modena, ſtipulating, that his ſerene highneſs ſhould be appointed perpetual governor of the

An. 1753. dutchy of Milan, with a ſalary of ninety thouſand florins, on condition that he ſhould maintain a body of four thouſand men to be at the diſpoſal of the Empreſs-queen; that her Imperial majeſty ſhould have a right to place garriſons in the citadels of Mirandola and Reggio, as well as in the caſtle of Maſſa-Carrara: that the archduke Peter Leopold, third ſon of their Imperial majeſties, ſhould eſpouſe the daughter of the hereditary prince of Modena by the heireſs of Maſſa Carrara; and, in caſe of her dying without heirs male, the eſtates of that houſe and the dutchy of Mirandola ſhould devolve to the arch duke; but, in caſe of her having male iſſue, that ſhe ſhould enjoy the principality of Fermia and other poſſeſſions in Hungary, claimed by the duke of Modena, for her fortune; finally, that on the extinction of the male-branch of the houſe of Eſte, all the dominions of the duke of Modena ſhould devolve to the houſe of Auſtria.

Conferences with reſpect to Nova Scotia broke up.

While the powers on the continent of Europe were thus employed in ſtrengthening their reſpective intereſts, and concerting meaſures for preventing any interruption of the general tranquillity, matters were faſt ripening to a freſh rupture between the ſubjects of Great Britain and France, in different parts of North America. We have already obſerved that commiſſaries had been appointed and conferences opened at Paris, to determine the diſputes between the two crowns relating to the boundaries of Nova Scotia; and we took notice in general of the little arts of evaſion practiſed by the French commiſſaries to darken and perplex the diſpute, and elude the pretenſions of his Britannic majeſty. They perſiſted in employing theſe arts

of

of chicanery and cavil with ſuch perſeverance, that the negotiation proved abortive, the conferences broke up, and every thing ſeemed to portend approaching hoſtilities. But before we proceed to a detail of the incidents which were the immediate forerunners of the war, we will endeavour to convey a juſt idea of the diſpute concerning Nova-Scotia; which, we apprehend, is but imperfectly underſtood, though of the utmoſt importance to the intereſt of Great Britain. An. 1753.

Nova Scotia, called by the French Acadie, lies between the forty-fourth and fiftieth degrees of north latitude, having New England and the Atlantic ocean to the ſouth and ſourth-weſt, and the river and gulph of St. Laurence to the north and north-eaſt. The winter, which continues near ſeven months in this country, is intenſely cold; and, without the intervention of any thing that can be called ſpring, it is immediately ſucceeded by a ſummer, the heat of which is almoſt inſupportable, but of no long continuance. The ſoil in general is thin and barren, tho' ſome parts of it are ſaid to be equal to the beſt land in England. The whole country is covered with a perpetual fog, even after the ſummer has commenced. It was firſt poſſeſſed by the French, before they made any eſtabliſhment in Canada; and they, by dint of induſtry and indefatigable perſeverance, in ſtruggling with the many difficulties they neceſſarily laboured under in the infancy of this ſettlement, ſubſiſted tolerably well, and increaſed conſiderably, with very little aſſiſtance from Europe; whilſt we, even now, ſhould loſe the immenſe expence we have already been at to ſettle a colony there, and Deſcription of Nova Scotia.

An. 1753. ſhould ſee all our endeavours to that end defeated, if the ſupport of the royal hand was withdrawn but for a moment.

This country, by the poſſeſſion of which an enemy would be enabled greatly to annoy all our other colonies, and, if in the hands of the French, would be of ſingular ſervice both to their fiſhery and their ſugar-iſlands, has frequenrly changed hands from the French to the Engliſh, and from the Engliſh back again to the French; until our right to it was finally ſettled by the twelfth article of the treaty of Utrecht, by which all the country included within the antient limits of what was called Nova Scotia, or Acadia, was ceded to the Engliſh. This article was confirmed by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle; but for want of aſcertaining diſtinctly what were the bounds intended to be fixed by the two nations, with reſpect to this province, diſputes aroſe, and commiſſaries, as we have obſerved, were appointed by both ſides to adjuſt the litigation.

Short view of the diſpute concerning the limits of Nova Scotia.

The commiſſaries of the king of Great Britain conformed themſelves to the rule laid down by the treaty itſelf, and aſſigned thoſe as the ancient limits of this country which had always paſſed as ſuch, from the very earlieſt times of any certainty down to the concluſion of the treaty; which the two crowns had frequently declared to be ſuch, and which the French had often admitted and allowed. Theſe limits are, the ſouthern bank of the river St. Laurence to the north, and Pentagoet to the weſt: the country ſituated between theſe boundaries, is that which the French received by the treaty of St. Germain's, in the year one thouſand ſix hundred

and

and thirty-two, under the general name of Acadia. Of this country, thus limited, they continued in poſſeſſion from that period to the year one thouſand ſix hundred and fifty-four, when a deſcent was made upon it under the command of colonel Sedgwick. That theſe were then the undiſputed limits of Acadia, his Britannic majeſty's commiſſaries plainly proved, by a letter of Lewis XIII. to the ſieurs Charniſay and La Tour, regulating their juriſdictions in Acadia; by the ſubſequent commiſſions of the French king to the ſame perſons, as governors of Acadia, in the ſequel; and by that which was afterwards granted to the ſieur Denys, in the year one thouſand ſix hundred and fifty-four; all of which extend the bounds of this country from the river St. Laurence to Pentagoet and New England. That theſe were the notions of the French, with reſpect to the ancient limits of this province, was farther confirmed by the demand made by their ambaſſador, in the courſe of that ſame year, for the reſtitution of the forts Pentagoet, St. John's, and Port-royal, as forts ſituated in Acadia. An. 1753.

In the year one thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty-two, upon the revival of the claim of France to the country of Acadia, which had been left undecided by the treaty of Weſtminſter, the French ambaſſador, then at the court of London, aſſigned Pentagoet as the weſtern, and the river St. Laurence as the northern boundary of that country; and alledged the reſtitution of Acadia in the year one thouſand ſix hundred and thirty-two, and the poſſeſſion taken by France in conſequence thereof, as well as the continuation of that poſſeſſion, with the

An. 1753. ſame limits, to the year one thouſand ſix hundred and fifty-four, as proofs of the equity and validity of the claim he then made: in which claim, and in the manner of ſupporting it, he was particularly approved of by the court of France. The ſame court afterwards thought it ſo clear, upon former determinations and her own former poſſeſſions, that the true antient boundaries of Acadia were Pentagoet to the weſt, and the river St. Laurence to the north, that ſhe deſired no ſpecification of limits in the treaty of Breda, but was contented with the reſtitution of Acadia, generally named: and, upon a diſpute, which aroſe in the execution of this treaty, France reaſſerted, and Great Britain, after ſome diſcuſſion, agreed to the abovementioned limits of Acadia; and France obtained poſſeſſion of that country, ſo bounded, under the treaty of Breda.

The ſenſe of France upon this ſubject, in the years one thouſand ſix hundred and eighty-five, and one thouſand ſix hundred and eighty-ſeven, was alſo clearly manifeſted, in the memorials delivered at that time by the French ambaſſador at the court of London, complaining of ſome encroachments made by the Engliſh upon the coaſt of Acadia: he deſcribed the country as extending from iſle Percee, which lies at the entrance of the river of St. Laurence, to St. George's iſland: and again, in a ſubſequent complaint, made by Monſ. Barillon and Monſ. de Bonrepaus, to the court of Great Britain, againſt the judge of Pemaquid, for having ſeized the effects of a French merchant at Pentagoet, which, ſaid they, was ſituated in Acadia, as reſtored to France by the treaty of Breda.

To

To explain the ſenſe of France, touching the bounds of Acadia in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred, the Britiſh commiſſaries produced a propoſal of the French ambaſſador, then reſiding in Great Britain, to reſtrain the limits of that country to the river St. George. They alſo inſtanced the ſurrender of Port-Royal in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ten, in which Acadia is deſcribed with the ſame limits with which France had received it in the years one thouſand ſix hundred and thirty-two, and one thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty-ſeven. And further, to aſcertain the ſenſe of both crowns, even at the treaty of Utrecht itſelf, they produced the queen of Great Britain's inſtructions to her ambaſſadors, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and eleven, in which they were directed to inſiſt, "That his moſt Chriſtian majeſty ſhould quit all claim or title, by virtue of any former treaty, or otherwiſe, to the country called Nova Scotia, and expreſly to Port-Royal, otherwiſe Annapolis Royal." To theſe they added a manifeſt demonſtration, founded on indiſputable facts, proving, that the recital of the ſeveral ſorts of right which France have ever pretended to this country, and a ſpecification of both terms, Acadia, or Nova Scotia, were intended by Great Britain to obviate all doubts which had ever been made concerning the limits of Acadia, and to comprehend, with more certainty, all that country which France had ever received as ſuch: finally, to ſpecify what France conſidered as Acadia, during the treaty, they referred to the offers of that crown in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, in which ſhe propoſed to reſtrain the An. 1753.

An. 1753. boundary of Acadia to the river St. George, as a departure from its real boundary, in caſe Great Britain would reſtore to her the poſſeſſion of that country.

From all theſe facts it plainly appears, that Great Britain demanded nothing but what the fair conſtruction of the words of the treaty of Utrecht neceſſarily implies; and that it is impoſſible for any thing to have more evident marks of candour and fairneſs in it, than the demand of the Engliſh on this occaſion. From the variety of evidence brought in ſupport of this claim, it evidently reſults, that the Engliſh commiſſaries aſſigned no limits as the ancient limits of Acadia, but thoſe which France herſelf determined to be ſuch in the year one thouſand ſix hundred and thirty two; and which ſhe poſſeſſed, in conſequence of that determination, till the year one thouſand ſix hundred and fifty-four: that in one thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty-two France claimed, and received in one thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty-nine, the country which Great Britain now claims as Acadia, reſtored to France by the treaty of Breda under that general denomination: that France never conſidered Acadia as having any other limits than thoſe which were aſſigned to it from the year one thouſand ſix hundred and thirty-two, to the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ten; and that, by the treaty of Utrecht, ſhe engaged to transfer that very ſame country, as Acadia, which France has always aſſerted and poſſeſſed, and Great Britain now claims, as ſuch.

Should the crown of France, therefore, be ever willing to decide what are the antient limits of Acadia,

dia, by her own declarations ſo frequently made in like diſcuſſions upon the ſame point, by her poſſeſſions of this country for almoſt a century, and by her deſcription of Acadia, during the negociation of that very treaty upon which this doubt is raiſed, ſhe cannot but admit the claim of Great-Britain to be conformable to the treaty of Utrecht, and to the deſcription of the country transferred to Great Britain by the twelfth article of that treaty. There is a conſiſtency in the claim of the Engliſh, and a compleatneſs in the evidence brought in ſupport of it, which is ſeldom ſeen in diſcuſſions of this ſort; for it rarely happens, in diſputes of ſuch a nature between two crowns, that either of them can ſafely offer to have its pretenſions decided by the known and repeated declarations, or the poſſeſſions of the other. An. 1753.

To anſwer the force of this detail of concluſive hiſtorical facts, and give a new turn to the real queſtion in diſpute, the French commiſſaries, in their memorial laid it down, as a diſtinction made by the treaty of Utrecht, that the antient limits of Acadia, referred to by that treaty, are different from any with which that country may have paſſed under the treaties of St. Germain's and Breda; and then endeavoured to ſhew, upon the teſtimonies of maps and hiſtorians, that Acadia and its limits were antiently confined to the ſouth-eaſtern part of the peninſula. In ſupport of this ſyſtem, the French commiſſaries had recourſe to antient maps and hiſtorians, who, as they aſſerted, had ever confined Acadia to the limits they aſſigned. They alledged, that thoſe commiſſions of the French government over Acadia, which the Engliſh cited as

evidences

An. 1753. evidences of the limits they claimed, were given as commiſſioners over Acadia and the country around it, and not over Acadia only: that the whole of the country claimed by the Engliſh, as Acadia, could not poſſibly be ſuppoſed ever to have been conſidered as ſuch, becauſe many parts of that territory always did, and ſtill do, preſerve particular and diſtinct names. They affirmed New France to be a province in itſelf; and argued, that many parts of what we claim as Acadia, can never have been in Acadia, becauſe hiſtorians and the French commiſſions of government expreſly place them in New France. They aſſerted, that no evidence can be drawn of the opinion of any crown, with reſpect to the limits of any country, from its declaration during the negotiation of a treaty; and, in the end, relying on maps and hiſtorians for their antient limits of Acadia, they pretended that the expreſs reſtitution of St. Germain's, and the poſſeſſion taken by France in conſequence of the treaty of Breda, after a long diſcuſſion of the limits, and the declaration of France during the negociation of the treaty of Utrecht, were foreign to the point in queſtion.

In refutation of theſe maxims, the Engliſh commiſſaries proved, from an examination of the maps and hiſtorians cited by the French in ſupport of their ſyſtem, that if this queſtion was to be decided upon the authorities which they themſelves allowed to belong, and to be applicable, to this diſcuſſion, the limits which they aſſigned were utterly inconſiſtent with the beſt maps of all countries, which are authorities in point for almoſt every part of the claim of Great Britain. They ſhewed, that the

French

French hiſtorians Champlain and Denys, and particularly this laſt, with his commiſſion in the year one thouſand ſix hundred and fifty-five, aſſigned the ſame northern and weſtern limits to Acadia which they did; and that Eſcarbot, another of their hiſtorians, as far as any evidence can be drawn from his writings, agrees intirely with the former two. They obſerved that all theſe evidences fall in with and confirm the better authorities of treaties, and the ſeveral tranſactions between the two crowns for near a century paſt; and that the French commiſſaries, by deviating from treaties, and the late proceedings of the two crowns, to ancient hiſtorians and maps, only made a tranſition from an authentic to an inſufficient ſort of evidence; and led the Engliſh commiſſaries into an inquiry, which proved, that both the proper and the improper, the regular and the foreign evidence, upon which this matter had been reſted, equally confuted the limits alledged by the French commiſſaries as the antient limits of Acadia. An. 1753.

Ambitious ſchemes of the French in North America.

While the Britiſh miniſtry depended upon the ſucceſs of the conferences between the commiſſaries of the two crowns at Paris, the French were actually employed in executing their plans of encroachment upon the Britiſh colonies in North America. Their ſcheme was to engroſs the whole fur-trade of that continent; and they had already made great progreſs in extending a chain of forts, connecting their ſettlements on the river Miſſiſſippi with their poſſeſſions in Canada, along the great lakes of Erie and Ontario, which laſt iſſues in the river St. Laurence. By theſe means they hoped to exclude the Engliſh from all communication

and

An. 1753. and traffic with the Indian nations, even thoſe that lay contiguous to the Britiſh ſettlements, and confine them within a line of their drawing, beyond which they ſhould neither extend their trade nor plantations. Their commercial ſpirit did not keep pace with the gigantic ſtrides of their ambition: they could not ſupply all thoſe Indians with the neceſſaries they wanted, ſo that many of the natives had recourſe to the Engliſh ſettlements; and this commerce produced a connection, in conſequence of which the Britiſh adventurers ventured to travel with merchandize as far as the banks of the river Ohio, that runs into the Miſſiſſippi, a great way the other ſide of the Apalachean mountains, beyond which none of our coloniſts had attempted to penetrate.

The tract of country lying along the Ohio is ſo fertile, pleaſant, and inviting, and the Indians, called Twightees, who inhabit thoſe delightful plains, were ſo well diſpoſed towards a cloſe alliance with the Engliſh, that as far back as the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixteen, Mr. Spotſwood, governor of Virginia, propoſed a plan for erecting a company to ſettle ſuch lands upon this river as ſhould be ceded to them by treaty with the natives; but the deſign was at that time fruſtrated, partly by the indolence and timidity of the Britiſh miniſtry, who were afraid of giving umbrage to the French, and partly by the jealouſies and diviſions ſubſiſting between the different colonies of Great Britain. The very ſame circumſtances encouraged the French to proceed in their project of invaſion. At length, they penetrated from the banks of the river St. Laurence, acroſs

the lake Champlain, and upon the territory of New York, built with impunity, and, indeed, without oppoſition, the fort of Crown-Point, the moſt inſolent and dangerous encroachment that they had hitherto carried into execution. An. 1753.

Governor Spotſwood's ſcheme for an Ohio company was revived immediately after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, when certain merchants of London, who traded to Maryland and Virginia, petitioned the government on this ſubject, and were indulged not only with a grant of a great tract of ground to the ſouthward of Penſylvania, which they promiſed to ſettle; but alſo with an excluſive privilege of trading with the Indians on the banks of the river Ohio. This deſign no ſooner tranſpired, than the French governor of Canada took the alarm, and wrote letters to the governors of New-York and Penſylvania, giving them to underſtand, that as the Engliſh inland traders had encroached on the French territories and privileges by trading with the Indians under the protection of his ſovereign, he would ſeize them wherever they could be found, if they did not immediately deſiſt from that illicit practice. No regard being paid to this intimation, he next year cauſed three Britiſh traders to be arreſted. Their effects were confiſcated, and they themſelves conveyed to Quebec, from whence they were ſent priſoners to Rochelle in France, and there detained in confinement. In this ſituation they preſented a remonſtrance to the earl of Albemarle, at that time Engliſh ambaſſador in Paris, and he reclaiming them as Britiſh ſubjects, they were ſet at liberty. Although, in anſwer to his lordſhip's memorial, Riſe and conduct of the Ohio company.

An. 1753. morial, the court of Verſailles promiſed to tranſmit orders to the French governors in America to uſe all their endeavours for preventing any diſputes that might have a tendency to alter the good correſpondence eſtabliſhed between the two nations; in all probability, the directions given were the very reverſe of theſe profeſſions: for the French commanders, partiſans, and agents in America, took every ſtep their buſy genius could ſuggeſt, to ſtrengthen their own power, and weaken the influence of the Engliſh, by embroiling them with the Indian nations. This taſk they found the more eaſy, as the natives had taken offence againſt the Engliſh, when they underſtood that their lands were given away without their knowledge, and that there was a deſign to build forts in their country, without their conſent and concurrence. Indeed the perſon whom the new company employed to ſurvey the banks of the Ohio, concealed his deſign ſo carefully, and behaved in other reſpects in ſuch a dark myſterious manner, as could not fail to arouſe the jealouſy of a people naturally inquiſitive, and very much addicted to ſuſpicion. How the company propoſed to ſettle this acquiſition in deſpite of the native poſſeſſors, it is not eaſy to conceive: and ſtill more unaccountable that they ſhould have neglected the natives, whoſe conſent and aſſiſtance they might have procured at a very ſmall expence. Inſtead of acting ſuch a fair, open, and honourable part, they ſent one Mr. Giſt to make a clandeſtine ſurvey of the country, as far as the falls of the river Ohio, and, as we have obſerved above, his conduct alarmed both the French and Indians. The erection of this company

pany was equally diſagreeable to the ſeparate traders of Virginia and Penſylvania, who ſaw themſelves on the eve of being deprived of a valuable branch of traffic, by the excluſive charter of a monopoly; and therefore employed their emiſſaries to foment the jealouſy of the Indians. An. 1753.

Letter from the governor of Virginia to the French commander at fort Sur la Riviere au Beuf.

The French having in a manner commenced hoſtilities againſt the Engliſh, and actually built forts on the territories of the Britiſh allies at Niagara, and on the lake Erie, Mr. Hamilton, governor of Penſylvania, communicated this intelligence to the aſſembly of the province, and repreſented the neceſſity of erecting truck-houſes, or places of ſtrength and ſecurity, on the river Ohio, to which the traders might retire in caſe of inſult or moleſtation. The propoſal was approved, and money granted for the purpoſe; but the aſſembly could not agree about the manner in which they ſhould be erected; and in the mean time the French fortified themſelves at leiſure, and continued to harraſs the traders belonging to the Britiſh ſettlements. Repeated complaints of theſe encroachments and depredations being repreſented to Mr. Dinwiddie, governor of Virginia, he, towards the latter end of this very year, ſent major Waſhington with a letter to the commanding officer of a fort which the French had built on the Riviere au Beuf, which falls into the Ohio, not far from the lake Erie. In this letter Mr. Dinwiddie expreſſed his ſurprize that the French ſhould build forts and make ſettlements on the river Ohio, in the weſtern part of the colony of Virginia, belonging to the crown of Great Britain. He complained of theſe encroachments, as well as of the

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Letter from the governor of Virginia to the French commander at fort Sur la Riviere au Beuf.

An. 1753. injuries done to the ſubjects of Great Britain, in open violation of the law of nations, and of the treaties actually ſubſiſting between the two crowns. He deſired to know by whoſe authority and inſtructions his Britannic majeſty's territories had been invaded; and required him to depart in peace without further proſecuting a plan, which muſt interrupt the harmony and good underſtanding which his majeſty was deſirous to continue and cultivate with the moſt Chriſtian king. To this ſpirited intimation the officer replied, That it was not his province to ſpecify the evidence, and demonſtrate the right of the king his maſter to the lands ſituated on the river Ohio; but he would tranſmit the letter to the marquis du Queſne, and act according to the anſwer he ſhould receive from that nobleman. In the mean time, he ſaid he did not think himſelf obliged to obey the ſummons of the Engliſh governor; that he commanded the fort by virtue of an order from his general, to which he was determined to conform with all the preciſion and reſolution of a good officer. Mr. Dinwiddie expected no other reply, and therefore had projected a fort to be erected near the forks of the river. The province undertook to defray the expence, and the ſtores for that purpoſe were already provided; but, by ſome fatal overſight, the concurrence of the Indians was neither obtained nor ſolicited, and therefore they looked upon this meaſure with an evil eye, as a manifeſt invaſion of their property.

While the French thus induſtriouſly extended their encroachments to the ſouthward, they were not idle in the gulph of St. Laurence; but ſeized

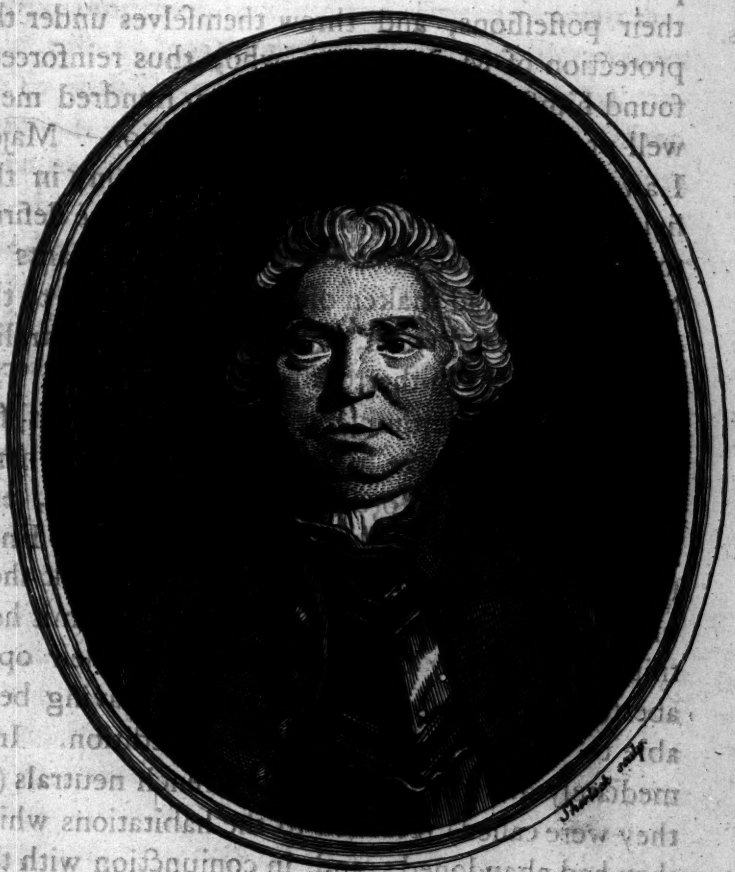
every opportunity of diſtreſſing the Engliſh ſettlement of Nova-Scotia. We have already obſerved, that the town of Halifax was no ſooner built, than they ſpirited up the Indians of that neighbourhood to commit hoſtilities againſt the inhabitants, ſome of whom they murdered, and others they carried priſoners to Louiſbourg, where they ſold them for arms and ammunition; the French pretending that they maintained this traffic from motives of pure compaſſion, in order to prevent the maſſacre of the Engliſh captives, whom, however, they did not ſet at liberty, without exacting an exorbitant ranſom. As theſe ſculking parties of Indians were generally directed and headed by French commanders, repeated complaints were made to the governor of Louiſbourg, who ſtill anſwered that his juriſdiction did not extend over the Indians, and that their French conductors were choſen from the inhabitants of Annapolis, who thought proper to remain in that country after it was ceded to the Engliſh, and were in fact the ſubjects of Great Britain. Even while the conferences were carried on for aſcertaining the limits of Nova Scotia, the governor of Canada detached M. La Corne with ſome regular troops and a body of militia to fortify a poſt on the bay of Chignecto, on pretence that this and a great part of the peninſula belonged to his government. The poſſeſſion of this poſt not only ſecured to the Indians of the continent a free entrance into the peniuſula, and a ſafe retreat in caſe of purſuit; but alſo encouraged the French inhabitants of Annapolis to riſe in open rebellion againſt the Engliſh government.

An. 1753.

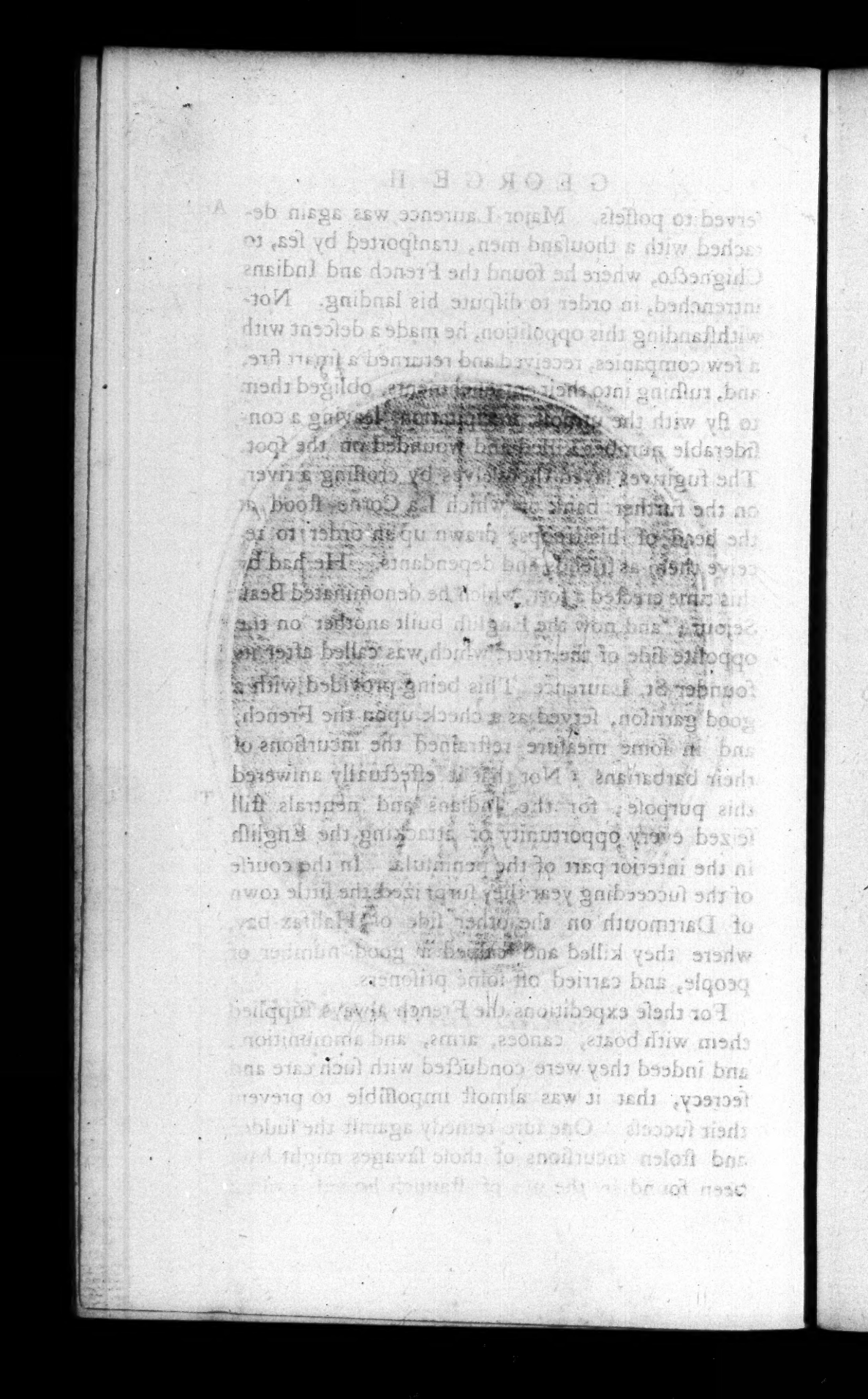
Perfidious practices of the French in Nova Scotia.

An. 1753. In the ſpring of the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty, general Cornwallis, governor of Halifax, detached major Laurence with a few men to reduce them to obedience. At his approach they burned their town to aſhes, forſook their poſſeſſions, and threw themſelves under the protection of M. La Corne, who, thus reinforced, found himſelf at the head of fifteen hundred men, well provided with arms and ammunition. Major Lawrence, being unable to cope with him in the field, demanded an interview, at which he deſired to know for what cauſe the French inhabitants of Nova Scotia had ſhaken off their allegiance to the crown of Great Britain, and violated the neutrality which they had hitherto affected to profeſs. The French officer, without pretending to account for their behaviour, gave him to underſtand in general terms, that he had orders to defend his poſt, and theſe orders he was determined to obey. The Engliſh major, finding himſelf too weak to attack their united force, and having no orders to commit hoſtilities againſt any but the Indians and their open abettors, returned to Halifax without having been able to fulfil the purpoſe of his expedition. Immediately after his retreat, the French neutrals (ſo they were called) returned to the habitations which they had abandoned; and, in conjunction with the Indians, renewed their depredations upon the inhabitants of Halifax and its dependent ſettlements. The Engliſh governor, juſtly incenſed at theſe outrages, and ſeeing they would neither ſubmit to the Engliſh government themſelves, nor allow others to enjoy it with tranquillity, reſolved to expel them effectually from the country they ſo ill deſerved

Major Laurence defeats the French neutrals.



GENERAL LAWRENCE.



ſerved to poſſeſs. Major Laurence was again detached with a thouſand men, tranſported by ſea, to Chignecto, where he found the French and Indians intrenched, in order to diſpute his landing. Notwithſtanding this oppoſition, he made a deſcent with a few companies, received and returned a ſmart fire, and, ruſhing into their entrenchments, obliged them to fly with the utmoſt precipitation, leaving a conſiderable number killed and wounded on the ſpot. The fugitives ſaved themſelves by croſſing a river, on the further bank of which La Corne ſtood at the head of his troops, drawn up in order to receive them as friends and dependants. He had by this time erected a fort, which he denominated Beau Sejour; and now the Engliſh built another on the oppoſite ſide of the river, which was called after its founder St. Laurence. This being provided with a good garriſon, ſerved as a check upon the French, and in ſome meaſure reſtrained the incurſions of their barbarians. Not that it effectually anſwered this purpoſe; for the Indians and neutrals ſtill ſeized every opportunity of attacking the Engliſh in the interior part of the peninſula. In the courſe of the ſucceeding year they ſurprized the little town of Dartmouth on the other ſide of Halifax-bay, where they killed and ſcalped a good number of people, and carried off ſome priſoners. An. 1753.

The little town of Dartmouth burned by the Indians.

For theſe expeditions the French always ſupplied them with boats, canoes, arms, and ammunition; and indeed they were conducted with ſuch care and ſecrecy, that it was almoſt impoſſible to prevent their ſucceſs. One ſure remedy againſt the ſudden and ſtolen incurſions of thoſe ſavages might have been found in the uſe of ſtaunch hounds, which

An. 1753. would have run upon the foot, detected the ſculking parties of the Indians, and fruſtrated all their ambuſcades; but this expedient, ſo eaſy and practicable, was never tried, though frequently recommended in public to the attention of the government, and the conſideration of the coloniſts. The Indians continued to plunder and maſſacre the Britiſh ſubjects with impunity, and were countenanced by the French government in that country, who now ſtrengthened their lodgment on the neck of the peninſula with an additional fort, diſtinguiſhed by the name of Baye-verte; and built a third at the mouth of St. John's river, on the north ſide of the bay of Fundy.

The Britiſh ambaſſador at Paris amuſed with general promiſes.

All theſe previous ſteps to a rupture with England were taken with great deliberation, while the commiſſaries of both nations were diſputing about the limits of the very country which they thus arrogantly uſurped; and they proceeded to perfect their chain of forts to the ſouthward, without paying the leaſt regard to the expoſtulations of the Engliſh governors, or to a memorial preſented at Verſailles by the earl of Albemarle, the Britiſh miniſter. He demanded, that expreſs orders ſhould be ſent to M De la Jonquiere, the commander for the French in America, to deſiſt from violence againſt the Britiſh ſubjects in that country: that the fort of Niagara ſhould be immediately razed: that the ſubjects of Great Britain, who had been made priſoners, ſhould be ſet at liberty, and indemnified for the loſſes they had ſuſtained: and that the perſons who had committed theſe exceſſes, ſhould be puniſhed in an exemplary manner. True it is, ſix Engliſhmen, whom they had unjuſtly

justly taken, were immediately dismissed; and the ambassador was amused with general promises of sending such instructions to the French governor in America, as should anticipate any cause of complaint for the future: but, far from having any intention to perform these promises, the court of Versailles, without all doubt, exhorted La Jonquiere to proceed, in bringing its ambitious schemes to perfection. An. 1753.

Every incident in America seemed to prognosticate war, when the session of parliament was opened on the fifteenth day of November: yet his majesty, on this occasion, told them, That the events of the year had not made it necessary for him to offer any thing in particular to their consideration, relating to foreign affairs. He even declared, That the continuance of the public tranquillity, and the general state of Europe, remained upon the same footing as when they last parted; and assured them of his steadiness in pursuing the most effectual measures to preserve to his people the blessings of peace. He expressed uncommon concern that the horrid crimes of robbery and murder were of late rather increased than diminished, and earnestly recommended this important object to their serious attention. Session of parliament opened.

Affectionate addresses were presented by both houses in answer to this harangue; and, what was very remarkable, they were proposed and passed without question or debate.

The commons continued the same number of seamen and land-forces for the ensuing year which had been granted in the last session, and made suitable provision for all the exigencies of the state. Supplies granted.

An. 1753. The whole ſupply amounted to two millions ſeven hundred ninety-ſeven thouſand nine hundred and ſixteen pounds ten ſhillings and two-pence, to be raiſed by a land-tax of two ſhillings in the pound, malt-tax, a continuation of certain duties on wine, vinegar, cyder, and beer imported, a ſum taken from the ſinking-fund, and the overplus of certain grants, funds, and duties. The proviſions made conſiderably exceeded the grants; but this exceſs was chargeable with the intereſt of what ſhould be borrowed upon the credit of the land or malt-tax, there being a clauſe of credit in both, as alſo with the deficiency (if any ſhould happen) in the ſums they were computed to produce. The houſe agreed to all theſe reſolutions almoſt unanimouſly: indeed, no oppoſition was made to any of them, but that for continuing the ſame number of land-forces, which was carried by a great majority.

Repeal of the act for naturalizing Jews.

The act permitting Jews to be naturalized, which had, during the laſt ſeſſion, triumphed over ſuch an obſtinate oppoſition, was by this time become the object of national horror and execration. Every part of the kingdom reſounded with the reproach of the miniſtry who had enforced ſuch an odious meaſure; and the two brothers, who engroſſed the greater part of the adminiſtration, trembled at the proſpect of what this clamour might produce at the general election, this being the laſt ſeſſion of the preſent parliament. So eager were the miniſters to annul this unpopular meaſure, that, immediately after the peers had agreed to the nature and form of an addreſs to his majeſt, the d—— of N——, with that precipitation ſo peculiar to his character, poured forth an abrupt

rupt harangue, in that houſe, importing, that the diſſaffected had made an handle of the act paſſed laſt ſeſſion, in favour of the Jews, to raiſe diſcontents among many of his majeſty's good ſubjects; and as the act was in itſelf of little importance, he was of opinion it ought to be repealed: for this purpoſe he preſented a bill ready framed, which was read and committed, though not without ſome debate. An. 1753.

The naturalization-bill, now devoted as a ſacrifice to the reſentment of the people, contained a clauſe diſabling all naturalized Jews from purchaſing, inheriting, or receiving any advowſon or preſentation, or right to any eccleſiaſtical benefice or promotion, ſchool, hoſpital, or donative; and by the firſt draught of the bill, which his grace now preſented, it was intended that this clauſe ſhould not be repealed. It was the opinion, however, of the majority, that ſuch a clauſe ſtanding unrepealed might imply, that the Jews, by being thus expreſly excluded from the poſſeſſion of any eccleſiaſtical right of preſentation, would be conſidered as having the power and privilege of purchaſing and inheriting any lay-property in the kingdom. On this conſideration an amendment was made in the bill, the clauſe in queſtion was left out, and the whole act of naturalization repealed without exception †.

† The reverend bench of biſhops had, with a laudable ſpirit of chriſtian meekneſs and philanthropy, generally approved of the indulgence granted to their Hebrew brethren; and now they acquieſced in the propoſed repeal with the ſame paſſive diſcretion, though one of the number contended for the ſaving clauſe, which the duke of N— had recommended.

Though

An. 1753. Though the lords, in general, concurred in the expediency of the repeal, it was oppoſed by ſome few, as too great a ſacrifice to the idle and unfounded clamours of the multitude; and upon this ſide of the debate a great power of elocution was diſplayed by earl Temple, who had lately ſucceeded to this title on the death of his mother, a nobleman of diſtinguiſhed abilities, and the moſt amiable diſpoſition, frank, liberal, humane, and zealouſly attached to the intereſt and honour of his country.

In the lower houſe the members of both parties ſeemed to vie with each other in demonſtrations of averſion to this unpopular act. On the very firſt day of the ſeſſion, immediately after the motion for an addreſs to his majeſty, Sir James Daſhwood, an eminent leader in the oppoſition, gave the commons to underſtand, that he had a motion of very great importance to make, which would require the attention of every member, as ſoon as the motion for the addreſs ſhould be diſcuſſed: he therefore deſired they would not quit the houſe, until he ſhould have an opportunity to explain his propoſal. Accordingly they had no ſooner agreed to the motion for an addreſs of thanks to his majeſty, than he ſtood up again; and having expatiated upon the juſt and general indignation which the act of the preceding ſeſſion, in favour of the Jews, had raiſed among the people, he moved to order, that the houſe ſhould be called over on Tueſday the fourth day of December, for taking that act into conſideration: but being given to underſtand, that it was not uſual to appoint a call of the houſe for any particular purpoſe, he agreed that the motion

tion ſhould be general. It was ſeconded by lord Parker, his oppoſite in political intereſts: the houſe agreed to it without oppoſition, and the call was ordered accordingly. They were anticipated however by the lords, who framed and tranſmitted to them a bill on the ſame ſubject. To the purport of it the commons made no objection; for every member, having the fear of the general election before his eyes, carefully avoided every expreſſion which could give umbrage to his conſtituents: but violent oppoſition was made to the preamble, which ran in the following ſtrain: "Whereas an act of parliament was made and paſſed in the twenty-fifth year of his majeſty's reign, intituled, An act to permit perſons profeſſing the Jewiſh religion to be naturalized by parliament, and for other purpoſes therein mentioned; and whereas occaſion has been taken, from the ſaid act, to raiſe diſcontents and diſquiets in the minds of his majeſty's ſubjects, be it enacted, &c." This introduction was conſidered as an unjuſt reflection upon the body of the people in general, and in particular upon thoſe who had oppoſed the bill in the courſe of the preceding ſeſſion. Sir Roger Newdigate therefore moved, that the expreſſion ſhould be varied to this effect: "Whereas great diſcontents and diſquietudes had from the ſad act ariſen." The conſequence of this motion was an obſtinate debate, in which it was ſupported by the earl of Eg—t, and divers other able orators; but Mr. Pelham and Mr. P—— were numbered among its oponents. The queſtion being put for the propoſed alteration, it was of courſe carried in the negative: the bill, after the third reading, paſſed nemine contradi- An. 1753.

cente,

An. 1753. cente, and in due time obtained the royal aſſent.

Motion for repealing a former act favourable to the Jews.

Even this conceſſion of the miniſtry did not allay the reſentment of the people, and their apprehenſions of encroachment from the Jews. Another act ſtill ſubſiſted, by virtue of which any perſon profeſſing the Jewiſh religion might become a free denizon of Great Britain, after having reſided ſeven years in any of his majeſty's colonies in America; and this was now conſidered as a law having the ſame dangerous tendency, of which the other was now in a fair way of being convicted. It was moved therefore in the lower houſe, that part of this former act might be read: then the ſame member made a motion for an addreſs to his majeſty, deſiring, that the houſe might have the peruſal of the liſts tranſmitted from the American colonies to the commiſſioners for trade and plantations, containing the names of all ſuch perſons profeſſing the Jewiſh religion as had intitled themſelves to the benefit of the ſaid act ſince the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty.

Theſe liſts were accordingly preſented, and left upon the table for the peruſal of the members: but as this act contained no limitation of time within which the benefit of it ſhould be claimed, and as this claim was attended with a good deal of trouble and ſome expence, very few perſons had availed themſelves of it in that period. Nevertheleſs, as a great number of Jews were already intitled to claim this indulgence, and as it remained an open channel through which Great Britain might be deluged with thoſe people, all of whom the law would hold as natural-born ſubjects, and

their

their progeny as freed from all the reſtrictions contained in the act, with reſpect to naturalized foreigners, lord Harley moved for leave to bring in a bill, to repeal ſo much of the ſaid act as related to perſons profeſſing the Jewiſh religion, who ſhould come to ſettle in any Britiſh colony after a certain time. The motion was ſeconded by Sir James Daſhwood, and ſupported by the earl of Egmont; but being found unequal to the intereſt and elocution of Mr. Pelham and Mr. P---, was rejected by the majority. An. 1754.

Mutiny bill for the ſervice of the Eaſt India company.

The next object that claimed the attention of the commons, was a bill for improving the regulations already made to prevent the ſpreading of a contagious diſtemper, which raged among the horned cattle in different parts of the kingdom. The laſt bill of this ſeſſion, that had the good fortune to ſucceed, was brought in for puniſhing mutiny and deſertion of officers and ſoldiers in the ſervice of the Eaſt India company, and for the puniſhment of offences committed in the Eaſt Indies and the iſland of St. Helena. This being a meaſure of a very extraordinary nature, all the members were ordered to attend the houſe on the day fixed for the ſecond reading: at the ſame time all charters, commiſſions, and authorities, by which any powers relative to a military juriſdiction, or the exerciſe of martial law, had been granted or derived from the crown to the ſaid company, were ſubmitted to the peruſal of the members. The bill was by many conſidered as a dangerous extenſion of military power, to the prejudice of the civil rights enjoyed by Britiſh ſubjects, and as ſuch violently conteſted by the earl of Egmont, lord Strange, and

An. 1754. Mr. Alderman Beckford. Their objections were anſwered by the ſolicitor-general and Mr. Yorke. The bill, after ſome warm debates, being eſpouſed by the miniſtry, was enacted into a law, and diſpatched to the Eaſt Indies by the firſt opportunity.

Caſe of L—e. Some other motions were made, and petitions preſented on different ſubjects, which, as they miſcarried, it will be unneceſſary to particularize. It may not be amiſs, however, to record an exemplary act of juſtice done by the commons on a perſon belonging to a public office, whom they detected in the practice of fraud and impoſition. Notwithſtanding the particular care taken in the laſt ſeſſion to prevent the monopolizing of tickets in the ſtate-lottery, all thoſe precautions had been eluded in a ſcandalous manner by certain individuals, intruſted with the charge of delivering the tickets to the contributors according to the intent of the act, which expreſly declared, that not more than twenty ſhould be ſold to any one perſon.

Inſtead of conforming to theſe directions of the legiſlature, they and their friends engroſſed great numbers, ſheltering themſelves under a falſe liſt of feigned names for the purpoſe; by which means they not only defeated the equitable intention of the commons, but in ſome meaſure injured the public credit; inaſmuch as their avarice had prompted them to ſubſcribe for a greater number than they had caſh to purchaſe; ſo that there was a deficiency in the firſt payment, which might have had a bad effect on the public affairs. Theſe practices were ſo flagrant and notorious as to attract the notice of the lower houſe, where an inquiry was begun and

proſecuted with a ſpirit of real patriotiſm, in oppoſition to a ſcandalous cabal, who endeavoured with equal eagerneſs and perſeverance to ſcreen the delinquent. All their efforts, however, proved abortive; and a committee, appointed to examine particulars, agreed to ſeveral ſevere reſolutions againſt one L—, who had amaſſed a large fortune by this and other kinds of peculation. They voted him guilty of breach of truſt, and a direct violation of the lottery-act; and an addreſs was preſented to his majeſty, deſiring he might be proſecuted by the attorney-general for theſe offences. He was accordingly ſued in the court of King's Bench, and payed a fine of one thouſand pounds, for having committed frauds by which he had gained forty times that ſum; but he was treated with ſuch gentleneſs as remarkably denoted the clemency of that tribunal. An. 1754.

The ſeſſion ended in the beginning of April, when the king gave the parliament to underſtand that he ſhould ſay nothing at preſent on foreign affairs; but aſſured him of his fixed reſolution to exert his whole power in maintaining the general tranquillity, and adhering to ſuch meaſures for that purpoſe, as he had hitherto purſued in conjunction with his allies. He in very affectionate terms thanked both houſes for the repeated proofs they had given of their zealous attachment and loyalty to his perſon and government. He enumerated the ſalutary meaſures they had taken for leſſening the national debt, and augmenting the public credit, extending navigation and commerce, reforming the morals of the people, and improving the regulations of civil

Cloſe of the laſt ſeſſion of this parliament.

œco-

An. 1754. œconomy. He concluded with declaring, that he ſecurely relied upon the loyalty and good affection of his people, and had no other aim than their permanent happineſs.

In a little time after the cloſe of this ſeſſion they were diſſolved by proclamation, and new writs iſſued by the lord chancellor for convoking a new parliament. The ſame ceremonies were practiſed with reſpect to the convocations of Canterbury and York, though they no longer retained their former importance; nor, indeed, were they ſuffered to ſit and deliberate upon the ſubjects which formerly fell under their cognizance and diſcuſſion.

Death of Mr. Pelham, and change in the miniſtry.

In the beginning of March the miniſtry of Great Britain had been left without a head by the death of Mr. Pelham, which was not only ſincerely lamented by his ſovereign, but alſo regretted by the nation in general, to whoſe affection he had powerfully recommended himſelf by the candour and humanity of his conduct and character, even while he purſued meaſures which they did not entirely approve. The loſs of ſuch a miniſter was the more deeply felt by the government at this juncture, being the eve of a general election for a new parliament, when every adminiſtration is ſuppoſed to exert itſelf with redoubled vigilance and circumſpection. He had already concerted the meaſures for ſecuring a majority, and his plan was faithfully executed by his friends and adherents, who ſtill engroſſed the adminiſtration. His brother, the duke of Newcaſtle, was appointed firſt lord commiſſioner of the treaſury, and ſucceeded as ſecretary of ſtate by Sir Thomas Robinſon, who had long

long reſided as ambaſſador at the court of Vienna. The other department of this office was ſtill retained by the earl of Holderneſſe, and the function of chancellor of the exchequer was performed as uſual by the lord chief juſtice of the King's Bench, until a proper perſon could be found to fill that important office: but in the courſe of the ſummer it was beſtowed upon Mr. Legge, who acquitted himſelf with equal honour and capacity. Divers other alterations were made, of leſs importance to the public. Sir George Lyttleton was appointed cofferer, and the earl of Hillſborough comptroller of the houſhold. Mr. George Greenville, brother to earl Temple, became treaſurer of the navy; and Mr. Charles Townſhend, of whom we ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak in the ſequel, took place as a commiſſioner at the board of admiralty, in the room of lord Barrington, made maſter of the wardrobe. Lord Hardwicke, the chancellor, was promoted to the dignity of earl. The place of lord chief juſtice of the King's Bench becoming vacant by the death of Sir William Lee, was filled with Sir Dudley Rider, and he was ſucceeded by Mr. Murray in the office of attorney-general. An. 1754.

New parliament aſſembled and prorogued.

The elections for the new parliament generally ſucceeded according to the wiſh of the miniſtry; for oppoſition was now dwindled down to the loweſt ſtate of imbecillity. It had received a mortal wound by the death of the late prince of Wales, whoſe adherents were too wiſe to purſue an ignis fatuus, without any proſpect of ſucceſs or advantage. Some of them had prudently ſung their palinodia to the miniſtry, and been gratified with profitable employments; while others, ſetting too

An. 1754. great a price upon their own importance, kept aloof until the market was over, and were left to pine in ſecret over their diſappointed ambition. The maxims of Toryiſm had been relinquiſhed by many, as the barren principles of a loſing game: the body of the people were conciliated to the eſtabliſhed government; and the harmony that now, for the firſt time, ſubſiſted among all the branches of the royal family, had a wonderful effect in acquiring a degree of popularity which they had never before enjoyed.

The writs being returned, the new parliament was opened on the laſt day of May by the duke of Cumberland, and ſome other peers, who acted by virtue of a commiſſion from his majeſty.

The commons having choſen for their ſpeaker the right honourable Arthur Onſlow, who had honourably filled that high office in four preceding parliaments, he was preſented and approved by the commiſſioners. Then the lord high chancellor harangued both houſes, given them to underſtand, that his majeſty had indulged them with this early opportunity of coming together, in order to compleat, without loſs of time, certain parliamentary proceedings, which he judged would be for the ſatisfaction of his good ſubjects; but he did not think proper to lay before them any points of general buſineſs, reſerving every thing of that nature to the uſual time of their aſſembling in the winter. On the fifth day of June this ſhort ſeſſion was cloſed, and the parliament prorogued by the lords commiſſioners.

In the beginning of this year violent diſputes aroſe between the government and the houſe of

LIONEL SACKVILLE Duke of *DORSET*,
born Jan: 18, 1687-8.

commons in Ireland, on the almoſt forgotten ſubjects of privilege and prerogative. The commons conceived they had an undoubted right to apply the ſurplus of their revenue towards national purpoſes, without the conſent of their ſovereign; and accordingly, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-nine, prepared a bill with this preamble: "Whereas on the twenty-fifth day of March laſt a conſiderable ballance remained in the hands of the vice-treaſurers or receivers-general of the kingdom, or their deputy or deputies, unapplied; and it will be for your majeſty's ſervice, and for the eaſe of your faithful ſubjects in this kingdom, that ſo much thereof as can be conveniently ſpared ſhould be payed, agreeable to your majeſty's moſt gracious intentions, in diſcharge of part of the national debt."

An. 1754. Diſputes in the parliament of Ireland, concerning prerogative and privile ge.

This appropriation gave great offence to the advocates for prerogative in England, who affirmed, that the commons had no right to apply any part of the unappropriated revenue, nor even to take any ſuch affair into conſideration, without the previous conſent of the crown, expreſſed in the moſt explicit terms. It was in conſequence of this doctrine, that the duke of Dorſet, lord lieutenant of Ireland, told them in the next ſeſſion of parliament, held in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-one, he was commanded by the king to acquaint them, that his majeſty, ever attentive to the eaſe and happineſs of his ſubjects, would graciouſly conſent, and recommended it to them, that ſuch a part of the money then remaining in his treaſury, as ſhould be thought conſiſtent with

An. 1754. the public ſervice, be applied towards the further reduction of the national debt.

This declaration alarmed the commons, zealous as they were for the preſervation of their privileges; and in their addreſs of thanks, which, like that of the parliament of Great-Britain, uſed always to eccho back the words of the ſpeech, they made no mention of his majeſty's conſent; but only acknowledged his gracious attention to their eaſe and happineſs, in recommending to them the application of the ſurplus. They accordingly reſolved to apply one hundred and twenty thouſand pounds of that overplus towards a diſcharge of the national debt; and in the preamble of the bill, framed for this purpoſe, made no mention of his majeſty's conſent, though before they had acknowledged his goodneſs in recommending this application.

The miniſtry in England were highly offended at this purpoſed omiſſion, which they conſtrued into a wilful encroachment on the prerogative; and the bill was ſent back with an alteration in the preamble, ſignifying his majeſty's conſent as well as recommendation.

The Iriſh houſe of commons being at that time deeply engaged in a minute inquiry into the conduct of a gentleman, a ſervant to the crown, and a member of their own houſe, accuſed of having miſapplied a large ſum of money with which he had been intruſted, for rebuilding or repairing the barracks, were now unwilling to embroil themſelves further with the government, until this affair ſhould be diſcuſſed. They therefore paſſed the bill with the alteration, and proceeded with their inquiry.

quiry. The perſon was convicted of having miſ- An. 1754.
applied the public money, and ordered to make the barracks fit for the reception and accommodation of the troops, at his own expence. They did not, however, neglect to aſſert what they thought their rights and privileges, when the next opportunity occurred.

The duke of Dorſet, when he opened the ſeſſion of this year, repeated the expreſſion of his majeſty's gracious conſent, in mentioning the ſurplus of the public money. They again omitted that word in their addreſs; and reſolved, in their bill of application, not only to ſink this odious term, but likewiſe to abate in their complaiſance to the crown, by leaving out that expreſſion of grateful acknowledgment, which had met with ſuch a cold reception above.

By this time the conteſt had kindled up two violent factions, and diffuſed a general ſpirit of reſentment through the whole Iriſh nation. The committee who prepared the bill, inſtead of inſerting the uſual compliments in the preamble, mentioned nothing but a recital of facts, and ſent it over in a very plain dreſs, quite deſtitute of all embroidery. The miniſtry, intent upon vindicating the prerogative from ſuch an unmannerly attack, filled up the omiſſions of the committee, and ſent it back with this alteration: "And your majeſty, ever attentive to the eaſe and happineſs of your faithful ſubjects, has been graciouſly pleaſed to ſignify that you would conſent, and to recommend it to us, that ſo much of the money remaining in your majeſty's treaſury as ſhould be neceſſary, be applied to the diſcharge of the national debt, or

An. 1754. ſuch part thereof as ſhould be thought expedient by parliament." This then being the criſis, which was to determine a conſtitutional point of ſuch importance, namely, whether the people in parliament aſſembled have a right to deliberate upon, and vote the application of any part of the unappropriated revenue, without the previous conſent of the crown; thoſe who were the moſt zealouſly attached to the liberties of their country, reſolved to exert themſelves in oppoſing what they conceived to be a violation of theſe liberties; and the bill, with its alterations, was rejected by a majority of five voices. The ſucceſs of their endeavours was celebrated with the moſt extravagant rejoicings, as a triumph of patriotiſm over the arts of miniſterial corruption; and, on the other hand, all the ſervants of the crown, who had joined the popular cry on this occaſion, were in a little time diſmiſſed from their employments.

The rejection of the bill was a great diſappointment to the creditors of the public, and the circulation of caſh was almoſt ſtagnated. Theſe calamities were imputed to arbitrary deſigns in the government; and the people began to be inflamed with an enthuſiaſtic ſpirit of independency, which might have produced miſchievous effects, had not artful ſteps been taken to bring over the demagogues, and thus divert the ſtream of popular clamour from the miniſtry to thoſe very individuals who had been the idols of popular veneration. The ſpeaker of the houſe of commons was promoted to the dignity of an earl; and ſome other patriots were gratified with lucrative employments. His majeſty's letter arrived for paying of ſeventy-

five

A GENERAL MAP OF THE EAST IN

Longitude East from London. 77·25 82·25 87·25 92·25 97·25

INDIA

GUZERAT

SINDI

CANDISH

BERAR

COSPETIR

BAHAR

BENGAL

ORISSA

DECAN

CARNATI

MALABAR

LAKADIVE

MALDIVA

Land unknown

GULF OF CAMBAY

BAY OF BENGAL

COROMANDEL

KINGDOM OF PEGU

Cambay

Surat

Bombay

Goa

Calicut

Cochin

Madura

Tricomalay

Madras or Fort St George

Pondichery

Fort St David's Cuddalore

Negapatan

Gangapatam

Narsinga patam

Visanapore

Golconda

Bagnagar

Pendgiut

Rajamundry

Rajapore

Delli

Agra

Lahore

Multan

Attock

Benares

Patna

Rajemol

Daka

Hugly

Cassimbazar

Chatigan

Ava

Pegu

Martaban

Tenasserim

Junkseylon I.

Pulo Penang

Achin

Nicobar

Andaman

Ceylon

Candi

Columbo

Malapute

Jafanapatan

Aripo

Manaar I.

Cape Comorin

Male Residence of the King

Avic Attol

Feledi Attol

Malendi Attol

Malee Attol

Colamendel Attol

Hadumati Attol

Suadiva

Detifod Molli Atol

Attol Milindu Mendol

Boad of the Isles

Equinoctial Line

EASTERN OR INDIAN OCEAN

Longitude East from Ferro.

85 90 95 100 105 110 115

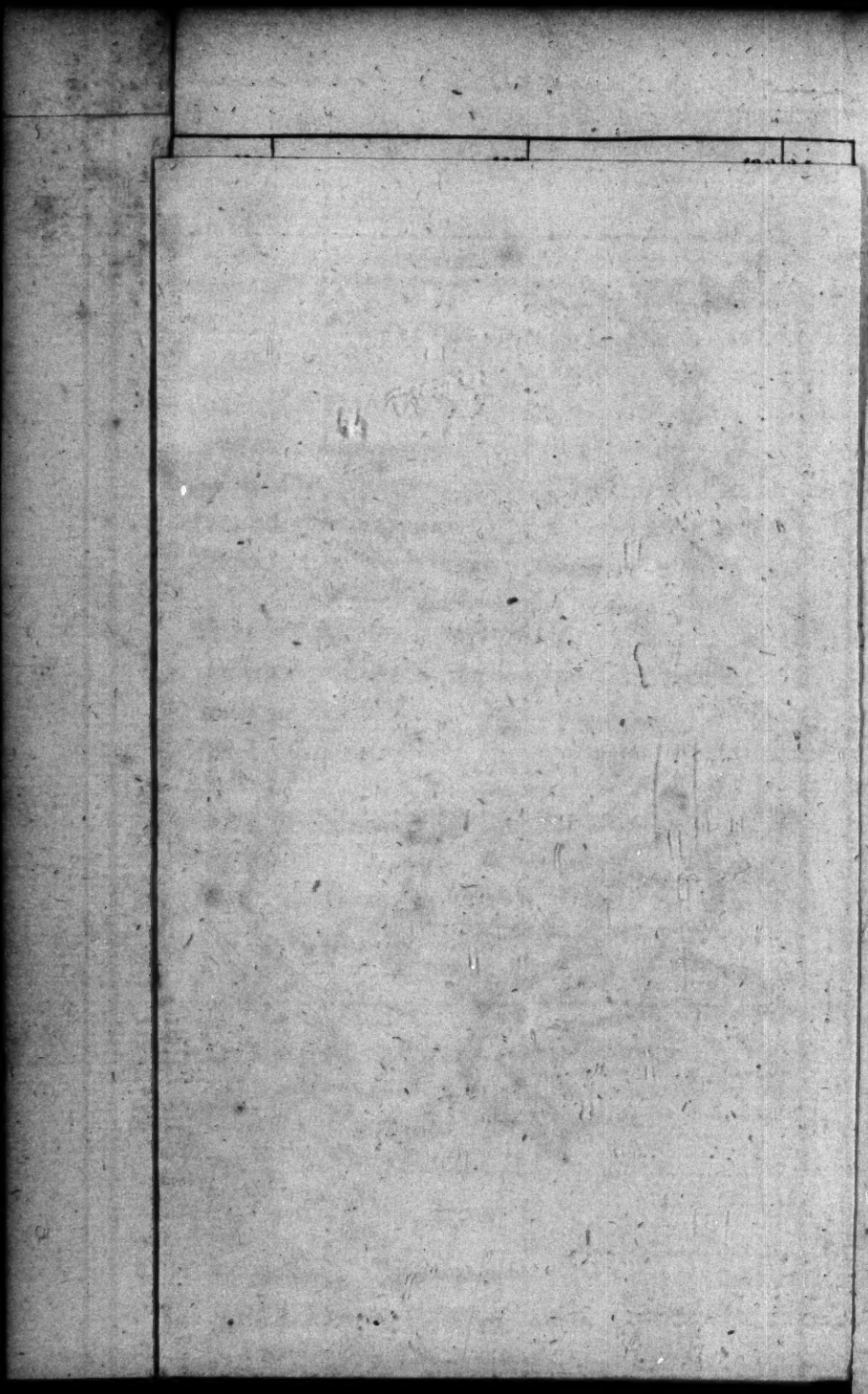
ST INDIES, FROM THE LATEST SURVEYS. 1762.

97·25 102·25 107·25 112·25 117·25 122·25 127·25 132·25

25 20 15 10 5 0 5 10

120 125 130 135 140 145 150

TCHEKIAN
LEKEYO ISLES
LEKEYO
TAYPIN ISLES
Taypin
FORMOSA I.
Tropic of Cancer
YUNNAN
KOANSI
KANTON
KOEITCHEU
KIANGNAN
GULF OF TONKIN
ISLE OF HAINAN
COCHINCHINA
SIAM
KINGDOM OF CAMBOJA
GULF OF SIAM
MALAYA
PENINSULA
ISLANDS OF SONDA
BORNEO
PARTS UNKNOWN
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
LUZON or Luſsuia
MINDANAO
LEYTE
CELEBES
MOLUCKA ISLANDS
GILOLO
SPICE ISLANDS
TIMOR
Timorland
FLORES
CUMBAVA
Part of New Holland
NEW GUINEY
The Iuncts
Pracel
English Bank
Panacat
Low Rock
Shelves of Paragoa
Middleburg Sand
Andrada's Rock
Louisa Bank
Scarborough Shoal
Macclesfield Bank
Half Moon Shoal
Seven Leagues N.E. of C. Spirito Santo Admiral Anson took the Acapulco Ship Value 350,000 l.



five thouſand five hundred pounds of the national debt. The circulation was thus animated, and the reſentment of the populace ſubſiding, the kingdom retrieved its former tranquillity. An. 1754.

The ambition and intrigues of the French court, by which the Britiſh intereſt was invaded and diſturbed on the continent of America, had alſo extended itſelf to the Eaſt-Indies, where they endeavoured to embroil the Engliſh company with divers nabobs, or princes, who governed different parts of the peninſula intra Gangem. Tranſactions in the Eaſt-Indies.

That the reader may have a clear and diſtinct idea of theſe tranſactions, we ſhall exhibit a ſhort ſketch of the Engliſh forts and ſettlements in that remote country. The firſt of theſe we ſhall mention is Surat, in the province ſo called, ſituated between the twenty-firſt and twenty ſecond degrees of north-latitude: from hence the peninſula ſtretches into the Indian ocean, as far as the latitude of eight north, ending in a point at Cape Comorin, which is the ſouthern extremity. To the northward this peninſula joins to Indoſtan, and at its greateſt breadth extends ſeven hundred miles. Upon the weſt, eaſt, and ſouth, it is waſhed by the ſea. It comprehends the kingdoms of Malabar, Decan, Golconda, and Biſnagar, with the principalities of Gingi, Tanjaour, and Madura. The weſtern ſide is diſtinguiſhed by the name of the Malabar coaſt: the eaſtern takes the denomination of Coromandel: and, in different parts of this long ſweep, from Surat round Cape Comorin to the bottom of the bay of Bengal, the Engliſh and other European powers have, with the conſent of the Mogul, eſtabliſhed forts and trading ſettlements,

An. 1754. All theſe kingdoms, properly ſpeaking, belong to the Mogul: but his power was ſo weakened by the laſt invaſion of Kouli Khan, that he has not been able to aſſert his empire over this remote country; the tributary princes of which, and even the nabobs, who were originally governors appointed by his authority, have rendered themſelves independent, and exert an abſolute dominion over their reſpective territories, without acknowledging his ſuperiority either by tribute or homage. Theſe princes, when they quarrel among themſelves, naturally have recourſe to the aſſiſtance of ſuch European powers as are ſettled in or near their dominions; and in the ſame manner the Eaſt Indian companies of the European powers, which happen to be at war with each other, never fail to intereſt the nabobs in the diſpute.

Account of the Engliſh ſettlements along the coaſts of Malabar and Coromandel.

The next Engliſh ſettlement to Surat, on the coaſt of the peninſula, is Bombay, in the kingdom of Decan, a ſmall iſland, with a very convenient harbour, about five and forty leagues to the ſouth of Surat. The town is very populous: but the ſoil is barren and the climate unhealthy; and the commerce was rendered very precarious by the neighbourhood of the famous corſair Angria, until his port of Geriah was taken, and his fortifications demoliſhed. The Engliſh company likewiſe carry on ſome traffic at Dabul, about forty leagues farther to the ſouth, in the province of Cuncan. In the ſame ſoutherly progreſſion, towards the point of the peninſula, we arrive at Carwar, in the latitude of fifteen degrees, where there is a ſmall fort and factory belonging to the company, ſtanding on the ſouth ſide of a bay, with a river capable of re-

receiving ſhips of pretty large burthen. The cli- An. 1754.
mate here is remarkably ſalubrious; the country abounds with proviſions of all ſorts, and the beſt pepper of India grows in this neighbourhood.

The next Engliſh ſettlement we find at Tillechery, where the company has erected a fort, to defend their commerce of pepper and cardamoms from the inſults of the rajah, who governs this part of Malabar. Hither the Engliſh trade was removed from Calicut, a large town, that ſtands fifteen leagues to the ſouthward of Tillechery, and was as well frequented as any port on the coaſt of the Indian peninſula.

The moſt ſoutherly ſettlement which the Engliſh poſſeſs on the Malabar coaſt is that of Anjengo, between the eighth and ninth degrees of latitude. It is defended by a regular fort, ſituated on a broad river which falls into the ſea, and would be very commodious for trade, were not the water on the bar too ſhallow to admit ſhips of conſiderable burthen.

Then turning the cape, and paſſing through the ſtrait of Chilao, formed by the iſland of Ceylon, we arrive on the coaſt of Coromandel, which forms the eaſtern ſide of the iſthmus. Proſecuting our courſe in a northern direction, the firſt Engliſh factory we reach is that of Fort St. David's, formerly called Tegapatan, ſituated in the latitude of eleven degrees forty minutes north, within the kingdoms of Gingi. It was, about ſix and twenty years ago, ſold by a Marahatta prince to the Eaſt India company, and, next to Bombay, is the moſt conſiderable ſettlement we have yet mentioned. Its territory extends about eight miles along the coaſt, and

half

An. 1754. half that ſpace up the country, which is delightfully watered by a variety of rivers: the ſoil is fertile, and the climate healthy. The fort is regular, well provided with cannon, ammunition, and a numerous garriſon, which is the more neceſſary on account of the neighbourhood of the French ſettlement at Pondicherry. The trade conſiſts in long cloths of different colours, ſallampores, morees, dimitties, ginghams, and ſuccatoons.

But the chief ſettlement belonging to the company on this coaſt is that of Madraſs, or Fort St. George, ſtanding farther to the northward, between the thirteenth and fourteenth degrees of latitude, and not a great way from the diamond mines of Golconda. It is ſeated on a flat, barren, ſcorching ſand, ſo near the ſea, that, in bad weather, the walls are endangered by the mighty ſurges rolled in from the ocean. As the ſoil is barren, the climate is ſo intenſely hot, that it would be altogether uninhabitable, were not the heat mitigated by the ſea-breezes. On the land ſide it is defended by a ſalt-water river, which, while it contributes to the ſecurity of the place, robs the inhabitants of one great comfort, by obſtructing the ſprings of freſh water. The fort is a regular ſquare, the town ſurrounded with walls well mounted with artillery, and the place, including the Black Town, is very populous. Madraſs, with ſeveral villages in the neighbourhood, was purchaſed of the king of Golconda, before the Mogul became ſovereign of this country. The governor of this place is not only preſident of Fort St. George, but alſo of all the other ſettlements on the coaſts of Malabar and Coromandel as far as the iſland of Sumatra. He lives

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in great pomp, having inferior judges who paſs ſentence of death occaſionally on malefactors of any nation, except the ſubjects of Great Britain. All the company's affairs are directed by him and his council, who are inveſted with the power of inflicting corporal puniſhment, ſhort of life and member, upon ſuch Europeans as are in the ſervice, and diſpoſe of all places of truſt and profit. By virtue of an act paſſed in the courſe of this very ſeſſion, the military officers belonging to the company were permitted to hold courts-martial, and puniſh their ſoldiers according to the degree of their delinquency. In a word, Madraſs is of the utmoſt importance to the company for its ſtrength, wealth, and the great returns it makes in calicoes and muſlins. An. 1754.

Towards the latter end of the laſt century the Engliſh company had a flouriſhing factory at Maſſulipatam, ſtanding on the north ſide of the river Nagundi, which ſeparates the provinces of Golconda and Biſnagar, in the latitude of ſixteen degrees and thirty minutes; but now there is no European ſettlement here, except a Dutch factory, maintained for carrying on the chintz commerce.

At Viſigapatam, ſituated ſtill farther to the northward, the Engliſh poſſeſs a factory, regularly fortified, on the ſide of a river, which, however, a dangerous bar has rendered unfit for navigation. The adjacent country affords cotton cloths, and the beſt ſtriped muſlins of India. It is chiefly for the uſe of this ſettlement, that the company maintains a factory at Ganjam, the moſt eaſtern town in the province or kingdom of Golconda, ſituated in a country abounding with rice and

An. 1754. and ſugar canes. Still farther to the north coaſt, in the latitude of twenty-two degrees, the company maintains a factory at Balaſore, which was formerly very conſiderable; but hath been of little conſequence ſince the navigation of the river Huguely was improved. At this place every European ſhip bound for Bengal and the Ganges takes in a pilot. The climate is not counted very ſalubrious; but the adjacent country is fruitful to admiration, and here are conſiderable manufactures of cotton and ſilk. Without ſkilful pilots, the Engliſh would find it very difficult to navigate the different channels through which the river Ganges diſcharges itſelf into the ſea at the bottom of the bay of Bengal. On the ſouthern branch is a town called Pipely, where there was formerly an Engliſh factory: but this was removed to Huguely, one hundred and ſixty miles farther up the river; a place which, together with the company's ſettlement at Calcutta, were the emporiums of their commerce for the whole kingdom of Bengal. Indeed Huguely is now abandoned by the Engliſh, and their whole trade centers at Calcutta or Fort William, which is a regular fortification, containing lodgings for the factors and writers, ſtore-houſes for the company's merchandize, and magazines for their ammunition. As for the governor's houſe, which likewiſe ſtands within the fort, it is one of the moſt regular ſtructures in all India. Beſides theſe ſettlements along the ſea-coaſt of the peninſula, and on the banks of the Ganges, the Engliſh Eaſt-India company poſſeſs certain inland factories and poſts for the convenience and defence of their commerce, either purchaſed of the nabobs and rajahs,

or

or conquered in the courſe of the war. As the operations we propoſe to record, were confined to the coaſts of Malabar and Coromandel, or the interior countries which form the peninſula intra Gangem, it will be unneceſſary to deſcribe the factory at Bencoolen on the iſland of Sumatra, or any ſettlement which the Engliſh poſſeſs in other parts of the Eaſt Indies. An. 1754.

In order to underſtand the military tranſactions of the Engliſh company in India, the reader will take notice, that immediately after the peace of Aix la Chapelle, Monſieur du Pleix, who commanded for the French in that country, began by his intrigues to ſow the ſeeds of diſſenſion among the nabobs, that he might be the better able to fiſh in troubled waters. Sundah Saheb, nabob of Arcot, having been depoſed by the great Mogul, who placed Anawerde Khan in his room, he reſolved to recover his government by force, and had recourſe to the French general at Pondicherry, who reinforced him with two thouſand ſipoys, or ſoldiers of the country, ſixty kafres, and four hundred and twenty French troops, on condition that if he proved ſucceſsful in his enterprize, he ſhould cede to the French the town of Velur in the neighbourhood of Pondicherry, with its dependencies, conſiſting of forty-five villages. Thus reinforced, he defeated his rival Anawerde Khan, who loſt his life in the engagement, reaſſumed the government of Arcot, and punctually performed the conditions which had been ſtipulated by his French allies. Diſpute about the government of Arcot.

In the mean time Mahommed Ali Khan, ſon of the deceaſed nabob, fled to Tiruchirapalli, and ſolicited

An. 1754. licited the aſſiſtance of the Engliſh, who favoured him with a reinforcement of money, men, and ammunition, under the conduct of major Laurence, a brave and experienced officer. By dint of this ſupply, he gained ſome advantages over the enemy, who were obliged to retreat; but no deciſive blow was given. Mahommed afterwards repaired in perſon to Fort St. David's to demand more powerful ſuccours, alledging that his fate was connected with the intereſt of the Engliſh company, which in time would be obliged to abandon the whole coaſt, ſhould they allow the enemy to proceed in their conqueſts. In conſequence of theſe repreſentations, he received another ſtrong reinforcement under the command of captain Cope; but nothing of importance was attempted, and the Engliſh auxiliaries retired. Then Mahommed was attacked by the enemy, who obtained over him a complete victory. Finding it impoſſible to maintain his footing by his own ſtrength, he entered into a cloſe alliance with the Engliſh, and ceded to them ſome commercial points, which had been long in diſpute. Then they detached captain Cope to put Tiruchirapalli in a poſture of defence; while captain Gingen, a Swiſs officer, marched at the head of four hundred Europeans to the nabob's aſſiſtance. The two armies being pretty equal in ſtrength, lay encamped in ſight of each other a whole month; during which nothing happened but a few ſkirmiſhes, which generally terminated to the advantage of the Engliſh auxiliaries.

Mahommed Ali Khan is ſupported by the Engliſh company.

In order to make a diverſion, and divide the French forces, the company reſolved to ſend a detachment into the province of Arcot; and this was the

the firſt occaſion upon which the extraordinary talents of Mr. Clive were diſplayed. He had entered into the ſervice of the Eaſt India company as a writer, and was conſidered as a perſon very indifferently qualified for ſucceeding in any civil ſtation of life. He now offered his ſervice in a military capacity, and actually began his march to Arcot, at the head of two hundred and ten Europeans. An. 1754.

Such was the reſolution, ſecrecy, and diſpatch with which he conducted this enterprize, that the enemy knew nothing of his motions until he was in poſſeſſion of the capital, which he took without oppoſition. The inhabitants, expecting to be plundered, offered him a large ſum to ſpare their city; but they derived their ſecurity from the generoſity and diſcretion of the conqueror. He refuſed the profered ranſom, and iſſued a proclamation, intimating, That thoſe who were willing to remain in their houſes ſhould be protected from inſult and injury, and the reſt have leave to retire with all their effects, except proviſions, for which he promiſed to pay the full value. By this ſage conduct he conciliated the affections of the people ſo intirely, that even thoſe who quitted the place ſupplied him with exact intelligence of the enemy's deſigns, when he was beſieged in the ſequel. The town was in a little time inveſted by the French nabob, Sundah Saheb, at the head of a numerous army, and the operations of the ſiege were conducted by European engineers. Though their approaches were retarded by the repeated and reſolute ſallies of Mr. Clive, they at length effected two breaches, ſuppoſed to be practicable; and on the fourteenth day of October, in the year one thou-

Mr. Clive takes poſſeſſion of Arcot, in which he is beſieged.

An. 1754. thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-one, gave a general aſſault. Mr. Clive, having received intimation of their deſign, had made ſuch preparations for their reception, that they were repulſed in every quarter with great loſs, and obliged to raiſe the ſiege with the utmoſt precipitation.

He defeats the enemy in the plains of Arani, and obtains a ſecond complete victory over them at Koveripauk.

This gallant Engliſhman, not contented with the reputation he had acquired from his noble defence, was no ſooner reinforced by a detachment under captain Kirkpatrick, than he marched in purſuit of the enemy, whom he overtook in the plains of Arani. There, on the third day of December, he attacked them with irreſiſtible impetuoſity; and, after an obſtinate diſpute, obtained a complete victory at a very ſmall expence. The cities of Arani and Kajevaran ſurrendered to the terror of his name, rather than to the force of his arms; and he returned to Fort St. David's in triumph. He had enjoyed a very few weeks of repoſe, when he was ſummoned to the field by freſh incurſions of the enemy. In the beginning of the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-two, he marched with a ſmall detachment to Madraſs, where he was joined by a reinforcement from Bengal, the whole number not exceeding three hundred Europeans, and aſſembled a body of the natives, that he might have at leaſt the appearance of an army. With theſe he proceeded to Koveripauk, about fifteen miles from Arcot, where he found the French and Indians, conſiſting of fifteen hundred ſipoys, ſeventeen hundred horſe, a body of natives, and one hundred and fifty Europeans, with eight pieces of cannon. Though they were advantageouſly poſted and intrenched, and the day

was

was already far advanced, Mr. Clive advanced againſt them with his uſual intrepidity; but the victory remained for ſome time in ſuſpence. It was now dark, and the battle doubtful, when Mr. Clive ſent round a detachment to fall on the rear of the French battery. This attack was executed with great reſolution, while the Engliſh in front entered the intrenchments with their bayonets fixed; and, though very little tinctured with diſcipline, diſplayed the ſpirit and activity of hardy veterans. This double attack diſconcerted the enemy in ſuch a manner, that they ſoon deſiſted from all oppoſition. A conſiderable carnage enſued; yet the greater part of the enemy, both horſe and foot, ſaved themſelves by flight, under cover of the darkneſs. The French, to a man, threw down their arms, and ſurrendered themſelves priſoners of war; and all the cannon and baggage fell into the hands of the victor. An. 1754.

The province of Arcot being thus cleared of the enemy, Mr. Clive with his forces returned to Fort St. David's, where he found major Laurence juſt arrived from England, to take upon him the command of the troops in the company's ſervice. On the eighteenth day of March this officer, accompanied by Mr. Clive, took the field, and was joined by captain Gingen at Tiruchirapalli. From hence he detached Mr. Clive with four hundred European ſoldiers, a few Marahatta horſe, and a body of ſipoys, to cut off the enemy's retreat to Pondicherry. In the courſe of this expedition he diſlodged a ſtrong body of the foe poſted at Sameavarem, and obliged Sundah Saheb to throw a body of troops into a ſtrong fortified temple upon

An. 1754. the river Kalderon, which was immediately inveſted. The commanding officer, in attempting to eſcape, was ſlain with ſome others, and the reſt ſurrendered at diſcretion. They were ſtill in poſſeſſion of another fortified temple, which he alſo beſieged in form, and reduced by capitulation. Having ſubdued theſe forts, he marched directly to Golconda, whither he underſtood the French commander had retired. He found that officer intrenched in a village, from whence he drove him with precipitation, and made himſelf maſter of the French cannon. The enemy attempted to ſave themſelves in a neighbouring fort; but the gates being ſhut againſt them by the governor, who was apprehenſive that they would be followed pell-mell by the Engliſh, Mr. Clive attacked them with great fury, and made a conſiderable ſlaughter: but his humanity being ſhocked at this carnage, he ſent a flag of truce to the vanquiſhed with terms of capitulation, which they readily embraced. Theſe articles imported, That D'Anteuil, and three other officers, ſhould remain priſoners on parole for one year; that the garriſon ſhould be exchanged; and the money and ſtores be delivered to the nabob whom the Engliſh ſupported.

Mr. Clive reduces three forts, and takes Mr. D'Anteuil priſoner.

During theſe tranſactions Sundah Saheb lay encamped with an army of thirty thouſand men at Syrinham, an iſland in the neighbourhood of Tiruchirapalli, which he longed eagerly to poſſeſs. Hither major Laurence marched with his Indian allies, and took his meaſures ſo well, that the enemy's proviſions were entirely intercepted. Sundah Saheb, in attempting to fly, was taken priſoner by the nabob of Tanjour, an ally of the Engliſh com-

Sundah Saheb taken and put to death, and his army totally routed.

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pany, who ordered his head to be ſtruck off, in order to prevent the diſputes which otherwiſe would have riſen among the captors. The main body of the army being attacked by major Laurence, and totally defeated, the iſland of Syrinham was ſurrendered, and about a thouſand European French ſoldiers fell into the hands of the conquerors, including thirty officers, with forty pieces of cannon and ten mortars. The Engliſh and their allies having obtained divers other ſucceſſive advantages, Mr. Dupleix recalled all his regulars from the Indian army, and acted upon the defenſive. An. 1754

Convention between the Eaſt India companies of England and France.

The French company in France, diſcouraged by theſe repeated misfortunes, ſent over, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-three, one Mr. Duvelar as their commiſſary, who, with a view to reſtore peace in the Eaſt Indies, concluded a convention with the Engliſh company; by which it was ſtipulated, that the two companies ſhould reciprocally reſtore the territories taken by the troops of either ſince the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-eight, except certain diſtricts, which the Engliſh detained for the conveniency of their traffic; that the nabobs advanced through the influence of either party, ſhould be acknowledged by both; and that, for the future, neither ſhould interfere in the differences between the princes of the country.

How pacific ſoever the ſentiments of the French ſubjects might have been at this period in the Eaſt Indies, certain it is, the deſigns of the French governors in America were altogether hoſtile, and their conduct haſtening towards a rupture, which

An. 1754. hath kindled up a bloody war in every diviſion of the globe.

A general view of the Britiſh colonies in North America.

As this war may be termed a native of America, and the principal ſcenes of it have been acted on that continent, we ſhall, for the information of the reader, ſketch out the ſituation of the Britiſh colonies as they border on each other, and extend along the ſea-coaſt from the gulph of St. Laurence as far ſouth as the country of Florida. We ſhall enumerate the Indian nations that lie ſcattered about their confines, and delineate the manner in which the French have hemmed them in by a ſurpriſing line of fortifications. Should we comprehend Hudſon's bay, with the adjacent countries, and the banks of Newfoundland, in this geographical detail, we might affirm that Great Britain poſſeſſes a territory, along the ſea coaſt, extending ſeventeen hundred miles in a direct line, from the ſixtieth to the thirty-firſt degree of northern latitude: but as theſe two countries have not yet been concerned in the preſent diſpute, we ſhall advance from the northward to the ſouthern ſide of the gulph of St. Laurence; and beginning with Acadie, or Nova Scotia, deſcribe our ſettlements as they lie in a ſoutherly direction as far as the gulph of Florida.

This great tract of country, ſtretching fifteen degrees of latitude, is waſhed on the eaſt by the Atlantic ocean: the ſouthern boundary is Spaniſh Florida; but to the weſtward the limits are uncertain, ſome affirming, that the juriſdiction of the colonies penetrates through the whole continent as far as the South-ſea, while others, with more moderation, think they are naturally bounded by the river Illinois that runs into the Miſſiſſippi, and

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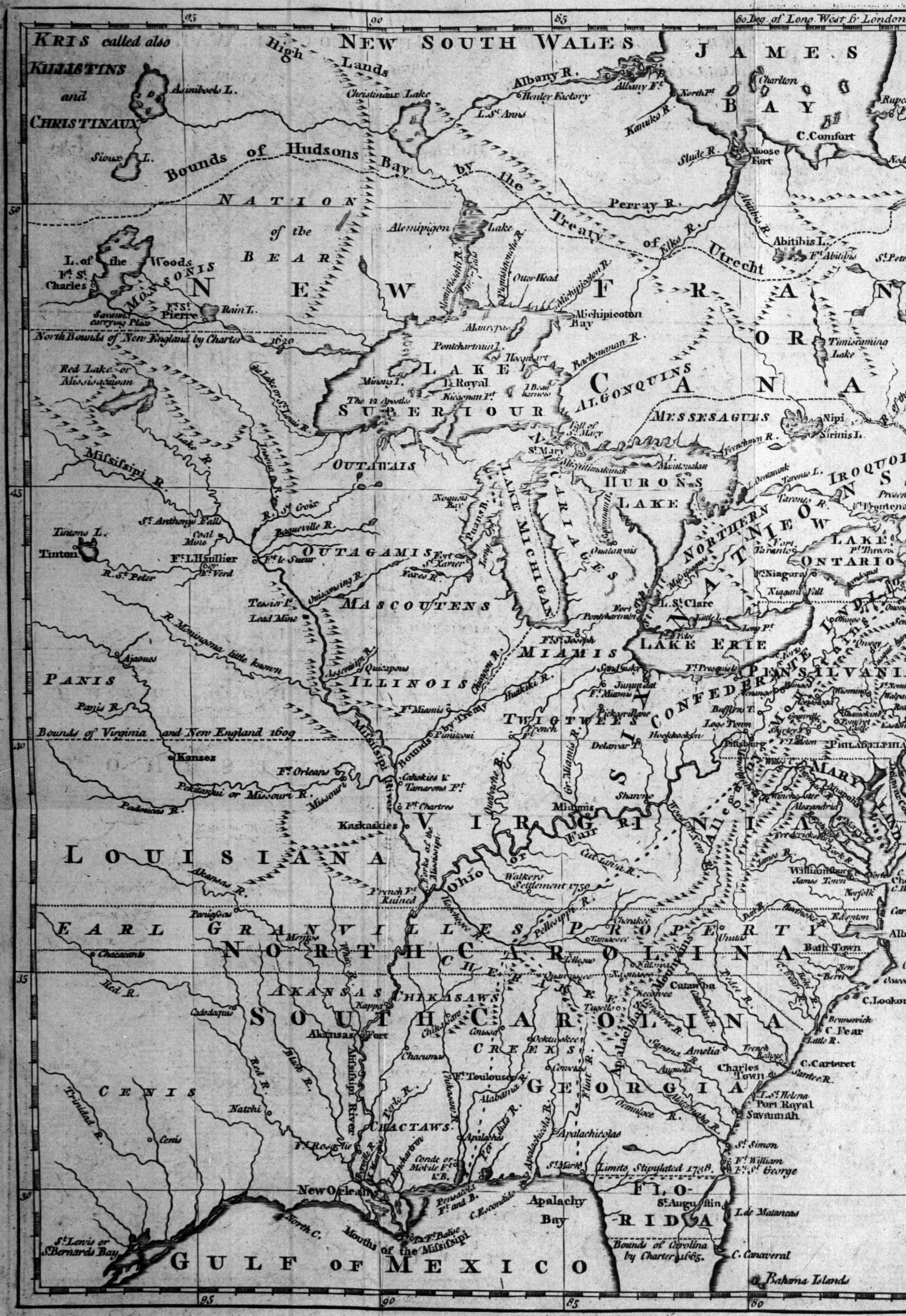
85
90
85
60 Deg of Long West fr London
KRIS called also
KILLISTINS
and
CHRISTINAUX
High Lands
NEW SOUTH WALES
JAMES
BAY
Albany R.
Albany Fort
North Pt
Charlton
C. Comfort
Moose Fort
Slude R.
Kanuks R.
Hunter Factory
L. St Anns
Christinaux Lake
Assinibois L.
Sioux L.
Bounds of Hudsons Bay by the Treaty of Utrecht
NATION of the BEAR
Perray R.
Albitibis R.
Albitibis L.
F. Albitibis
Elkes R.
Alemipigon Lake
Alemipigon R.
Pappitigansha R.
Outer Head
Michipicoton R.
Michipicoton Bay
L. of the Woods
F. St Charles
MONSONIS
NEW FRANCE
F. St Pierre
Rain L.
Savanne carrying Place
North Bounds of New England by Charter 1620
Maurepas
Pontchartrain L.
Hocquart
Backwoman R.
Timiscamina Lake
Red Lake of Missisagaim
the Lake of St Louis R.
Minong I.
I. Royal
Kicaenan Pt
I. Beaux Barnes
The 12 Apostles
LAKE SUPERIOUR
ALGONQUINS
CANADA
MESSESAGUES
Nipi
Sirinis L.
Bay of St Mary
St Mary
Firedrawn R.
Missisipi R.
Lake R.
OUTAWAIS
Mantoualan
Missillimakinak
HURONS
LAKE
Tarono L.
IROQUOIS
Tarono R.
Nogues Bay
Pauna R.
R. St Croix
St Anthonys Falls
Coal Mine
Baquerville R.
Tintons L.
Tinton
F. L'Huillier
R. St Peter
F. le Sueur
OUTAGAMIS
Fort St Xavier
Fores R.
LAKE MICHIGAN
Outanonis
Lorimier
Ouiscousing R.
Tesier F.
Lead Mine
MASCOUTENS
Fort Pontchartrain
L. St Clare
Little L.
Long Pt
Niagara
Niagara Fall
LAKE ONTARIO
LAKE ERIE
F. St Joseph
MIAMIS
R. Monipouma little known
Ajaouas
PANIS
Quicapous
Ouiatanon R.
ILLINOIS
Panis R.
Huskiki R.
Bounds by Treaty
Punitowi
F. Miamis
Sandusky
Junundat
Pickarillane
TWIGTWEES
CONFEDERATE INDIANS
PENSILVANIA
Bounds of Virginia and New England 1609
Kansez
F. Orleans
Pekitanoui or Missouri R.
Padoucas R.
Missisipi River
Cahokias & Tamarons F.
F. Chartres
Kaskaskies
Ohio or Fair R.
Miamis
Shannoe
Alleganey R.
Monongahela R.
Delanvar T.
Hockhocken
Pittsburg
PHILADELPHIA
MARYLAND
VIRGINIA
LOUISIANA
Akansas R.
Forks of the Missisipi
Walkers Settlement 1750
Cuttawa R.
James R.
Williamsburg
James Town
Norfolk
Roanoke R.
Edenton
EARL GRANVILLES PROPERTY
NORTH CAROLINA
Bath Town
Parigoas
Mengos
Chacaonis
White R.
Chickasaw Mountains
Tennessee
Chiaha
Red R.
AKANSAS
CHIKASAWS
Catawba
Keowhee
Tugelo
Pedee R.
Cadodaquis
Kappa
SOUTH CAROLINA
C. Lookout
Brunswick
C. Fear
Akansas Port
Chickasaw
Coussa
CREEKS
Ocketockee
Spirito Santo R.
Santee R.
Charles Town
C. Carteret
Chacumas
Red R.
Black R.
Tombeckbee R.
F. Toulouse
Alabama R.
Apalachia R.
Flint R.
Apalachicola R.
GEORGIA
Port Royal
Savannah
CENIS
Natchi
Trinidad R.
Cenis
CHACTAWS
Apalachas
Apalachicolas
St Simon
F. William
F. St George
Conde or Motile F. & R.
St Marks
Limits Stipulated 1738.
New Orleans
Presidio F. and B.
C. Escondido
Apalachy Bay
FLORIDA
St Augustin
L. de Matanças
North C.
St Lewis or St Bernards Bay
Mouths of the Missisipi
F. St Boise
Bounds of Carolina by Charter 1665.
C. Canaveral
GULF OF MEXICO
Bahama Islands
95
90
85
80
50
45
40
35
30

A NEW MAP OF NORTH AMERICA FROM THE LATEST DISCOVERIES. 1763.

LABRADOR OR NEW BRITAIN

NEW GULF OF FOUND LAND

ATLANTIC OCEAN

THE

The Great Fisbing Bank of Newfound land

Fisbing Banks of Nova Scotia

Brouns Bank

Sable I. Bank

St Peters Bank

Race C.

Placentia

St Johns

Bulls B.

Conception B.

Trinity B.

C. Bonavista

Penguins I.

Deadmans B.

Bay of Three Isles

Anticosti I.

Notsicotec B.

C. Rosier

Gaspe R.

Pt. aux B.

Mingans R.

Mistassins Lake

L. St. Barnabas

L. Peritibi

L. St. Joy

L. St. John

L. Begon

L. Etchetagama

L. Papipimouagan

Nodaway R.

Rupert R.

Albanel L.

Dauphin L.

J. Winichtagan

R. aux Ouarrias

Blanc R.

R. St. John

Saguenay R.

Natogomieu R.

Pigouagbiou or St. Augustin R.

Outakouois R.

Esquimaux R.

Str. of Bell Isle

C. Charles

C. Bell-Isle

C. Hamilton

Mt. Joli

Long Pt.

Rich Pt.

Canal I.

Mouo B.

White B.

Green B.

Lady Cork B.

Bay of the Isles

Isles

Mission

Mistipimak R.

Sante R.

French House

St. Peters L.

Argyle

Sterling B.

Magdalen Isles

Bird I.

Brion I.

Long I.

C. Ray

St. Paul I.

Despair B.

Fortune B.

I. St. Pierre

Placentia B.

Mirimishi B.

North Pt.

C. St. Laurence

North C.

I. St. Peters

Shediak

Green B.

Basin

Port Dauphin

Labrador Entry

Cape Breton

Louisburg

Madame

C. Gansó

Fundy B.

Minas

Annapolis

Halifax

Bay of Lakes

C. Lucombe

Chebucto H.

C. Sambro

Pt. le Heve

Pt. Range

C. Sable

Alibmak

Lunenburg

Penobscot B.

Penobscot R.

Kobequid

Shepody

Settlement

Cumberland

Fort

Shubenacadie R.

St. Lawrence R.

St. John R.

Canada R.

Chaudiere R.

Rapids

Rivieres

Quebec

Montreal

Fort Sorel

R. Outawais

Iroquois R.

Lake Champlain

Crown Point

Fort Frederick

Lake George

Fort Edward

Albany

Oswego

Onondago

Senecas

Mohawks

Hudsons R.

Connecticut R.

Massachusets Bay

Boston

Connecticut

New London

New Haven

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia

New Jersey

Burlington

Perth Amboy

Staten I.

Long I.

Marthas Vineyard I.

Nantucket I. and Shoals

C. Cod

Sandy Hill

Malabar

C. May

Delaware Bay

Delaware Coast

Maryland

C. Charles

Chesapeak Bay

C. Henry

Norfolk

Currituck Inlet

Albemarle Sound

C. Hatteras

Ocracock Inlet

C. Lookout

Bermudas Iles

Dominica

St. Francis B.

75

70

65

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in a manner connects that river with the chain of lakes known by the names of Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, the three firſt communicating with each other, and the laſt diſcharging itſelf in the river of St. Laurence, which, running by Montreal and Quebec, iſſues in the bay of the ſame denomination, forming the northern boundary of Nova Scotia. The French who had no legal claim to any lands on the ſouth ſide of this river, have nevertheleſs, with an inſolence of ambition peculiar to themſelves, not only extended their forts from the ſource of the St. Laurence, through an immenſe tract of country as far as the Miſſiſſippi, which diſembogues itſelf into the gulph of Florida; but alſo, by a ſeries of unparalleled encroachments, have endeavoured to contract the Engliſh colonies within ſuch narrow limits as will cut off almoſt one half of their poſſeſſions. An. 1754.

As we have already given a geographical deſcription of Nova Scotia, and mentioned the particulars of the new ſettlement of Halifax, we ſhall now only obſerve, that it is ſurrounded on three ſides by the ſea, the gulph, and river of St. Laurence; that its original boundary to the weſt was the river Pentagoet; but it is now contracted within the river St. Croix, becauſe the crown of Great Britain did, in the year one thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty-three, grant to the duke of York the territory of Sagudahac, ſtretching from St. Croix to the river of this name; which was, in the ſequel, by an expreſs charter from the crown, annexed to the province of the Maſſachuſet's bay, one of the four governments of New England. This country ſituated next to Nova Scotia, lies

An. 1754. between the forty-firſt and forty-fifth degrees of north latitude, extending near three hundred miles in length, and about two hundred in breadth, if we bound it by thoſe tracts which the French have poſſeſſed: no part of the ſettlements of this country, however, ſtretches above ſixty miles from the ſea. The ſummer is here intenſely hot, and the winter proportionably ſevere: nevertheleſs the climate is healthy, and the ſky generally ſerene. The ſoil is not favourable to any of the European kinds of grain; but produces great plenty of maiz, which the people bake into bread, and brew into beer, though their favourite drink is made of molaſſes hopped, and impregnated with the tops of the ſpruce-fir, which is a native of this country. The ground raiſes good flax and tolerable hemp. Here are great herds of black cattle, ſome of them very large in ſize, a vaſt number of excellent hogs, a breed of ſmall horſes, graceful, ſwift, and hardy; and large flocks of ſheep, whoſe wool, though not ſo fine as that of England, is manufactured with great ſucceſs.

The people moſtly conſiſt of a ſubſtantial yeomanry, who cultivate their own freeholds, and breathe the true ſpirit of independence, which is encouraged by a republican form of government, as well as of religion.

New England. New England is compoſed of the four provinces known by the names of New Hampſhire, Maſſachuſet's Bay, Rhode Iſland, and Connecticut, confederated for their common defence.

The province of the Maſſachuſet's Bay is ruled by a governor, a lieutenant-governor, a council, and an aſſembly. The two firſt places, together with

with the militia, the chief poſts in the law and revenue, are in the diſpoſal of the crown; but the council is choſen by the repreſentatives of the people; yet the governor has a negative, from which he derives very conſiderable influence. An. 1754.

The colony of Connecticut enjoys ſtill greater privileges.

Rhode Iſland is the ſmalleſt of the four, conſiſting of the iſland ſo called, and the old plantation of Providence. Their charter is the ſame with that of Connecticut, and the province is extremely populous; a circumſtance intirely owing to an unlimited freedom of religion, with which the inhabitants are indulged.

New Hampſhire, the moſt northern of the four, is the leaſt populous; perhaps becauſe it is a royal government, the crown having the nomination of all the officers of juſtice, the militia, and the members of the council.

Theſe four provinces contain about three hundred and fifty thouſand inhabitants, including a ſmall number of Blacks and Indians, from which an excellent militia might be raiſed. This country abounds with trading towns; and Boſton, the capital of Maſſachuſet's Bay, is the firſt city of all North America, ſeated on a peninſula, at the bottom of a fine capacious harbour, defended from the violence of the ſea by a number of iſlands, and rocks, which appear above water. The entrance, which is narrow, is defended by the cannon of a regular fortreſs. This town contains ten churches, and about twenty thouſand inhabitants, who carry on a very conſiderable commerce.

An. 1754. The commodities of New England conſiſt of maſts and yards, pitch, tar, and turpentine, ſtaves, lumber, boards, beef, pork, butter, cheeſe, Indian corn, and peaſe, cyder, apples, hemp, and flax, horſes, and live cattle. The trade in peltry is not very conſiderable; but their fiſhery employs a vaſt number of people, and above thirty-two thouſand quintals of cod-fiſh are annually exported from New England to Spain, Italy, and the Mediterranean. About nineteen thouſand quintals of an inferior ſort are ſent to the Weſt Indies, for the uſe of the negroes. From the ſugar-iſlands the traders of New England import a vaſt quantity of molaſſes, from which they diſtil ſpirits ſufficient almoſt to ſupply the other Britiſh colonies in North-America, the Indian trade of that continent, the Newfoundland fiſhery, and their commerce to the coaſt of Guinea.

A great number of ſhips for ſale are built at Boſton, and other towns in New England; and, with reſpect to trade, the inhabitants are carriers for all the other colonies. They have ſet up manufactures for hats, woollen, and linnen, and exceed all the other coloniſts in induſtry, and courage. The French have intruded themſelves a conſiderable way into the northern part of New Hampſhire, where they built the fort of Cohaſſer.

New York. New England is bounded on the ſouth by New-York, extending northerly, on both ſides of the river Hudſon, about two hundred miles into the country poſſeſſed by the Indians of the Five Nations, whom the French diſtinguiſh by the name of the Iroquois; but in breadth this province does not exceed fifty miles, though it comprehends

Long Iſland, lying to the ſouthward of Connecti- An. 1754.
cut, remarkable for yielding plenty of grain, excellent paſture, with a great number of horſes, ſheep, and oxen.

The capital, which from the province derives the name of New York, is ſituated on an excellent harbour in the iſland Manahatton, extending fourteen miles in length, and five in breadth, at the mouth of the noble river Hudſon, which is navigable for above two hundred miles. The city of New York is neatly built, adorned with four churches, and contains about eight thouſand inhabitants, the deſcendants of Engliſh and Dutch, who enjoy a flouriſhing trade in corn, flour, and other ſpecies of proviſion.

At the diſtance of one hundred and fifty miles from New York ſtands the town of Albany, upon the ſame river, which, though neither large nor populous, drives a great trade with the Indians, who are here ſupplied with coarſe woollen cloths and ſhirts, guns, hatchets, knives, hoes, kettles, powder and ſhot, with divers other articles. In this place all the treaties and other tranſactions are negociated between the Engliſh and the Iroquois, a confederacy of five Indian nations, who, by their union, courage, and military ſkill, had reduced a great number of other Indian tribes, and ſubdued a territory more extenſive than the whole kingdom of France. They were about threeſcore years ago able to bring ten thouſand warriors into the field; but now their number is ſo greatly diminiſhed by wars, epidemical diſeaſes, and the uſe of ſpirituous liquors, that they cannot raiſe above fifteen hundred men, even though they have admitted into their

An. 1754. their confederacy the nation of the Tuſcaroras, whom the Engliſh drove from the confines of Carolina.

The number of ſouls in the province of New York amounts to about fourſcore thouſand; an hoſpitable people, who live happily under a general indulgence in liberty of conſcience.

The Mohok Indians inhabit the country advanced from Albany. The northern extremities of New Hampſhire and New York are divided by the lakes Champlain and Sacrament, between which the French had raiſed the fort of Crown-Point, which is now in poſſeſſion of the Engliſh.

New Jerſey. Contiguous to New York, and lying along the coaſt, in a ſoutherly direction, is the ſmall province of New Jerſey, bounded on the weſt by the river Delaware, which divides it from Penſylvania, extending about one hundred and fifty miles in length, but in breadth not more than one third part of that extent. The climate, ſoil, and produce of theſe two provinces, as well as of Penſylvania, are ſimilar. They yield great quantities of grain, ſheep, horſes, hogs, and horned cattle; all kinds of poultry and game in great abundance; vegetables of every ſort in perfection, and excellent fruit, particularly peaches and melons. Their vaſt foreſts abound with oak, aſh, beech, cheſnut, cedar, walnut-tree, cypreſs, hickery, ſaſſafras, and pine; but the timber is not counted ſo fit for ſhipping as that of New England and Nova Scotia. Theſe provinces produce great quantities of flax and hemp. New York affords mines of iron; and very rich copper ore is found in New Jerſey. New Jerſey is ſuppoſed to contain about ſixty thouſand

ſand ſouls; but as yet they have no town of any conſequence, Perth-Amboy, which is their capital, being very thinly inhabited, though it has the advantage of a commodious harbour, capable of receiving ſhips of great burthen. The people of New Jerſey ſend the greater part of their produce to the markets of New York and Penſylvania, to which they are contiguous. An. 1754.

Penſylvania, lying to the ſouthward of New York and New Jerſey, is bounded on the other ſide by Maryland, ſtretching two hundred and fifty miles in length, two hundred in breadth, and having no communication with the ſea, except by the mouth of the river Delaware. The inhabitants of this flouriſhing province, which was originally ſettled by quakers under the auſpices of the celebrated William Penn, whoſe deſcendants are ſtill proprietaries of the country, amount to above two hundred and fifty thouſand, one half of which number conſiſts of Dutch, Swedes, and Germans, who live together in admirable harmony, though divided by a ſurpriſing diverſity of religions, comprehending quakers, churchmen, calviniſts, lutherans, catholics, methodiſts, moravians, independants, anabaptiſts, and a German ſect called dumplers, who live in a kind of religious ſociety, wearing long beards, and a habit reſembling that of friars. This province may boaſt of many conſiderable towns; but the capital Philadelphia is remarkably large, rich, and flouriſhing. It ſtands on a tongue of land, at the confluence of two navigable rivers, the Delaware and the Schulkel, diſpoſed in the form of a regular oblong, and deſigned by the original plan to extend from the one to the other. Penſylvania.

An. 1754. other. The ſtreets, which are broad, ſpacious, and uniform, croſs each other at right angles, leaving proper ſpaces for churches, markets, and other public edifices. The houſes are neatly built of brick, the quays ſpacious and magnificent, the warehouſes large and numerous, and the docks commodious and well contrived for ſhip-building. The number of inhabitants amount to about fifteen thouſand, and they carry on a conſiderable trade with the Engliſh, French, Spaniſh, and Dutch colonies in America, with the Azores, Canaries, Madeira, Great Britain and Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and Holland. The coloniſts, who cultivate the country, are hardy, induſtrious, and generally ſubſtantial; and the inferior people among them manufacture both linen and woollen cloth for their own wearing. The commodities in which they trade are wheat, flour, barley, oats, Indian corn, peas, beef, pork, cheeſe, butter, cyder, beer, flax, hemp, linſeed oil, furs and deer-ſkins, ſtaves, lumber, and iron. The importance of this colony may be eſtimated by the value of the imports from England, which in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſeven, amounted to two hundred ſixty-eight thouſand four hundred and twenty-ſix pounds, ſix ſhillings, and ſix-pence ſterling. The greateſt inconvenience to which this province is expoſed ariſes from the pacific principles of the quakers, who engroſs the greateſt ſhare in the government, and are generally averſe to vigorous meaſures, even when they ſeem neceſſary for their own preſervation. Penſylvania is underſtood to extend as far northerly as the banks of the lake Erie, where the French erected a fort. They raiſed another,

ther at ſome diſtance to the ſouthward of the river Au-Beuf, and made other encroachments on this colony, which we ſhall mention in due order. An. 1754.

Adjoining to part of Penſylvania on the ſea-coaſt lies the province of Maryland, a tract of land ſituated along the bay of Cheſapeak, in length about one hundred and forty miles, and nearly of the ſame breadth, bounded on the north by Penſylvania, on the eaſt by the Atlantic ocean, and by the river Potowmack on the ſouth. This country was firſt planted with Roman catholics by lord Baltimore, to whom Charles II. granted it by patent. In the ſequel, however, people of all religions were admitted into this ſettlement, and indulged with liberty of conſcience, and at preſent the reigning religion is that of the Engliſh church. The climate is very ſultry in ſummer, and not very ſalubrious. The ſoil is fruitful, and produces a great quantity of tobacco, which the people cultivate as their ſtaple commodity. The ſeat of government is eſtabliſhed at Annapolis, a ſmall town beautifully ſituated on the river Patuxent, and here the governor reſides. The number of white inhabitants within this province does not exceed forty thouſand; but there are upwards of ſixty thouſand negroes, employed for the moſt part in the culture of tobacco, which they raiſe annually to the amount of forty thouſand hogſheads. Maryland.

Tracing the ſea-coaſt ſtill ſoutherly, the next ſettlement is Virginia, watered on the north by the river Potowmack, which is the boundary between this and the colony laſt deſcribed, having the bay of Cheſapeak to the eaſt, bounded on the ſouth by Carolina, and extending weſtward without Virginia.

An. 1754. out any preſcribed limits, though the plantations have reached no farther than the great Allegany mountains; ſo that the province, as now poſſeſſed, ſtretches in length about two hundred and forty miles, and in breadth not above two hundred, lying between the fifty-fifth and fortieth degrees of latitude.

In ſailing to Virginia, navigators ſteer through a ſtreight formed by two points called the Capes, into the bay of Cheſapeak, a large inlet that runs three hundred miles into the country from ſouth to north, covered from the Atlantic ocean by the eaſtern ſide of Maryland, and a ſmall portion of Virginia on the ſame peninſula. This noble bay is about eighteen miles broad for a conſiderable ſpace, and ſeven at its narroweſt part, yielding generally nine fathoms depth of water; on both ſides it receives many navigable rivers, thoſe on the Virginia ſide being known by the names of James river, York river, the Rappahannock and Potowmack. This country, eſpecially towards the ſea, lies very low and ſwampy, and the ſoil is extremely fertile. The air and weather are variable; the heats of ſummer exceſſive; the froſts of winter ſudden and intenſely cold; ſo that, upon the whole, the climate is neither very agreeable nor healthy, the people being particularly ſubject to agues and pleuritic diſorders. The province abounds with vaſt foreſts of timber: the plains are covered with a ſurpriſing luxuriancy of vegetables, flowers, and flowering ſhrubs, diffuſing the moſt delicious fragrance. The ground yields plenty of corn, and every ſort of fruit in great abundance and perfection. Horned cattle and hogs have here multiplied to admiration,

tion, ſince they were firſt imported from Europe. The animals, natives of this and the neighbouring countries, are deer, panthers or tygers, bears, wolves, foxes, ſquirrels, racoons, and creatures called opoſſums, with an infinite variety of beautiful birds, and a diverſity of ſerpents, among which the rattleſnake is the moſt remarkable. An. 1754.

There are very few towns in Virginia: Jamestown, the antient capital, is dwindled down to an inconſiderable village; and Williamsburg is far from being extenſive or populous, although the ſeat of government, where the governor reſides, where the aſſembly and courts of juſtice are held, and a college hath been eſtabliſhed for the ſtudy of the arts and ſciences.

The number of white people in Virginia may amount to ſeventy thouſand; but the negroes are much more numerous. Theſe are chiefly employed in the culture of tobacco, the ſtaple commodity, of which above forty thouſand hogſheads are yearly exported from this province. The natives likewiſe ſupply Great Britain with a conſiderable quantity of flax, hemp, iron, ſtaves, walnut-tree, and cedar-planks; and they trade largely with the Weſt Indian Iſlands in lumber, pitch, tar, corn, and proviſions.

The two Carolinas

Virginia is bounded to the ſouth by the two Carolinas, ſituated between the forty-ſixth and thirty-firſt degrees of latitude; the length amounting to upwards of four hundred miles, and the breadth extending near three hundred, as far as the Indian nations called the Catawbas, the Creeks, and Cherokees.

The

An. 1754. The country of Carolina is divided into two governments, of which the moſt northern is the moſt inconſiderable. The climate in both is the ſame, as well as the ſoil: the firſt is warm, though not unhealthy; the laſt extremely fertile, yielding every thing in plenty which is produced in Virginia, beſides abundance of excellent oranges, and ſome commodities which are not found to the northward. North Carolina, though not ſo opulent, is more populous than the ſouthern part. The chief town, called Edenton, is no better than a trifling village; but the preſent governor has projected another capital farther ſouth, upon the river Neus. The coloniſts of North Carolina carry on a conſiderable traffick in tar, pitch, turpentine, ſtaves, ſhingles, lumber, corn, peas, pork and beef, tobacco, deer-ſkins, indigo, wheat, rice, bees-wax, tallow, bacon, and hog's lard, cotton, and ſquared timber, live cattle, with the ſkins of beaver, racoon, fox, minx, wild cat, and otter. South Carolina is much better cultivated; the people are more civilized, and the commerce more important. The capital of this province, called Charles-town, is finely ſituated at the confluence of two navigable rivers, having the advantage of a commodious harbour. The town, which, for ſize, beauty, and commerce, may be deemed one of the firſt in North America, contains about eight hundred houſes well built; and is regularly fortified. Here the governor reſides, and the aſſembly is convoked. The merchants are rich and the people in general, gay, liberal, and expenſive. Their trade, excluſive of the articles we have already mentioned, as common to this government, and that of North Caro-

Carolina, consists of two chief staple commodities, rice and indigo, which they cultivate with great success; and they have likewise made some progress in the culture of silk, which it is to be hoped will prosper under the cherishing wings of the legislature. An. 1754.

The most southern of all our settlements on this coast is Georgia, extending about sixty miles from north to south along the sea-shore; but widening in the inland parts to above one hundred and fifty, and stretching almost three hundred from the sea to the Apalachian mountains. This country differs very little from that of South Carolina, with which it borders; yet the summer is here more hot, and the soil not so fertile. Georgia.

Savannah, the capital, stands commodiously for trade, about ten miles from the sea, on a river of the same name, navigable with large boats two hundred miles farther up to the second town, called Augusta, a place that flourishes by the Indian trade of skins, which the inhabitants carry on with their neighbours the Creeks, the Chickesaws, and the Cherokees, who are the most numerous and powerful tribes in America.

Georgia is bounded on the south by the river Attamaha, at no great distance from the Spanish fort of St. Augustin. The colony is but thinly inhabited, though it increases in population, and the inhabitants begin to raise large quantities of rice and indigo.

Having thus exhibited a succinct view of the British colonies in North America, for the information of the reader, we shall now resume the thread of our history, and particularize the transactions by

An. 1754. which the preſent year was diſtinguiſhed on this extenſive continent.

The government of England having received nothing but evaſive anſwers from the court of France, touching the complaints that were made of the encroachments in America, diſpatched orders to all the governors of that country to repel force by force, and drive the French from their ſettlements on the river Ohio. Accordingly the provinces of Virginia and Penſylvania took this important affair into their conſideration; but, while they deliberated, the French vigorouſly proſecuted their deſigns on the other ſide of the mountains. They ſurpriſed Logs-town, which the Virginians had built upon the Ohio; made themſelves maſters of the Block-houſe and Truck-houſe, where they found ſkins and other commodities to the amount of twenty thouſand pounds, and deſtroyed all the Britiſh traders, except two who found means to eſcape. At the ſame time M. de Contrecœur, with a thouſand men and eighteen pieces of cannon, arrived in three hundred canoes from Venango, a fort they had raiſed on the banks of the Ohio, and reduced by ſurprize a Britiſh fort which the Virginians had built on the forks of the Monangahela, that runs into the ſame river.

The French ſurpriſe Logs-town on the river Ohio.

Theſe hoſtilities were followed by divers ſkirmiſhes between the people of the two nations, which were fought with various ſucceſs.

At length the governors of the Engliſh ſettlements received orders from England to form a political confederacy, for their mutual defence: and the governor of New York was directed to confer with the chiefs of the Six Nations, with a view

view to detach them from the French intereſt by dint of promiſes and preſents of value, ſent over for that purpoſe. A congreſs was accordingly appointed at Albany, to which place the governor of New York repaired, accompanied by commiſſioners from all the other Britiſh ſettlements: but a very ſmall number of Indians arrived, and even theſe ſeemed to be indifferent to the advances and exhortations that were made by the Engliſh orator. The truth is, the French had artfully weaned them from their attachment to the ſubjects of Great Britain. Nevertheleſs, they accepted the preſents, renewed their treaties with the king of England, and even demanded his aſſiſtance in driving the French from the poſts and poſſeſſions they had uſurped within the Indian territories.

An. 1754.

A conference with the Indians at Albany.

It was in conſequence of the meaſures here taken, that colonel Waſhington was detached from Virginia with four hundred men, and occupied a poſt on the banks of the river Ohio, where he threw up ſome works, and erected a kind of an occaſional fort, in hope of being able to defend himſelf in that ſituation, until he ſhould be joined by a reinforcement from New York, which however did not arrive. While he remained in this ſituation, De Villier, a French commander, at the head of nine hundred men, being on his march to diſlodge Waſhington, detached one Jamonville, an inferior officer, with a ſmall party, and a formal ſummons to Waſhington, requiring him to quit the fort, which he pretended was built on ground belonging to the French, or their allies. So little regard was payed to this intimation, that the Engliſh fell upon this party, and, as the French af-

An. 1754. firm, without the leaſt provocation, either ſlew or took the whole detachment. De Viller, incenſed at theſe unprovoked hoſtilities, marched up to the attack, which Waſhington for ſome time ſuſtained under manifold diſadvantages. At length, however he ſurrendered the fort upon capitulation, for the performance of which he left two officers as hoſtages in the hands of the French; and in his retreat was terribly harraſſed by the Indians, who plundered his baggage and maſſacred his people.

Colonel Waſhington defeated and taken by the French on the Ohio.

This event was no ſooner known in England, than the Britiſh ambaſſador at Paris received directions to complain of it to the French miniſtry as an open violation of the peace; but this repreſentation had no effect.

Both nations by this time foreſaw that a rupture would be inevitable, and each reſolved to make ſuitable preparations. France continued to ſend reinforcements of men, and ſupplies of ammunition to Quebec, for the proſecution of her ambitious projects; and the miniſtry of Great Britain tranſmitted ſalutary cautions to the governors of the provinces in North America, exhorting them to join their endeavours for repelling the incurſions of the enemy.

Diviſions among the Britiſh colonies in America.

Such an union as ſeemed neceſſary for their common preſervation was not eaſily effected. The different colonies were divided by different views and intereſts, both religious and political: beſides, every ſettlement was diſtracted into factions, formed by the governor and the demagogues of the aſſembly: in other words, an oppoſition like that in parliament, and a continual ſtruggle between the liberties of the people and the prerogative

tive of the proprietor, whether ſovereign or ſubject. An. 1754.
Mr. Dinwiddie, governor of Virginia, having demanded a certain perquiſite, or fee, for every patent he ſhould paſs for land, the aſſembly voted his demand illegal, arbitrary, and oppreſſive; declared, that every man who payed it ſhould be deemed an enemy to his country, and ſent over an agent to London to ſolicit the ſuppreſſion of this impoſition. The repreſentatives of the people in Penſylvania waſted the time in vain deliberations and violent diſputes with their proprietaries, while the enemy infeſted their frontiers. The colony of New York was filled with diſcontent and animoſity. Sir Danvers Osborn, who had been appointed governor of this province, died immediately after his arrival at New York, and the inſtructions he had received were expoſed to public cenſure. The preamble inveighed ſeverely againſt the want of duty, allegiance, loyalty, and unanimity, which had lately appeared ſo notorious in the aſſembly of that province, who had violated the royal commiſſion and inſtructions, by aſſuming to themſelves the power to diſpoſe of public money in the laws which they had occaſionally paſſed. This gentleman was therefore directed to inſiſt upon the reformation of all thoſe public abuſes, and upon the eſtabliſhment of a certain ſupply for the ſervice of the government, as well as upon the ſettlement of a ſalary for himſelf. Moreover, his majeſty, in theſe inſtructions, ſignified his will and pleaſure, That all money raiſed for the ſupply and ſupport of government, or upon any emergency for immediate ſervice, ſhould be diſpoſed of and applied properly to the uſe for which it might be granted, by

An. 1754. warrant from the governor, by and with the advice and conſent of the council of the province, and no otherwiſe: That, nevertheleſs, the aſſembly ſhould be permitted, from time to time, to view and examine the accounts of money diſpoſed of, by virtue of laws which they had enacted: That if any member of the council, or officer holding place of truſt or profit within the government, ſhould, in any manner whatever, give his aſſent to, or in any wiſe adviſe or concur with the aſſembly in paſſing any act or vote, whereby the royal prerogative might be leſſened or impaired, or any money be raiſed or diſpoſed of for the public ſervice, contrary to or inconſiſtent with the method preſcribed by theſe inſtructions, the governor ſhould forthwith remove or ſuſpend ſuch counſellor or officer ſo offending, and give an immediate account of his proceedings to the commiſſioners of trade and plantations. Theſe were peremptory injunctions, which plainly proved, that the miniſtry was determined to ſupport the prerogative with a high hand; but it muſt be owned, at the ſame time, that abundance of provocation had been given by the inſolent oppoſition of ſome turbulent individuals, who had exerted all their influence in diſturbing and diſtreſſing the views and deſigns of the government.

While the Britiſh colonies in America were, by theſe diviſions, in a great meaſure diſabled from making vigorous efforts againſt the common enemy, the adminiſtration at home began to exert itſelf for their defence. Officers were appointed for two regiments, conſiſting of two battalions each, to be raiſed in America, and commanded by Sir William Pepperel and governor Shirley, who had en-

enjoyed the ſame command in the laſt war; and a body of troops was deſtined for the ſame ſervice. An. 1754.

The moſt remarkable incident that marked this year on the continent of Europe was the converſion of the hereditary prince of Heſſe Caſſel, who had eſpouſed the princeſs Mary of England. He now declared himſelf a Roman catholic, and was ſuppoſed to have been cajoled to this profeſſion by the promiſes of certain powers, who flattered his ambition, in order to weaken the proteſtant intereſt in Germany. His father, though deeply affected by his ſon's apoſtacy, did not fail to take immediate meaſures for preventing the evil conſequences which might otherwiſe have flowed from his defection. He forthwith aſſembled the ſtates of the landgraviate, in order to take ſuch meaſures as might appear neceſſary to maintain the religion, laws, and conſtitution of the country; and the prince was laid under certain reſtrictions, which he will not find it an eaſy task to ſet aſide. It was enacted, that when the regency ſhould devolve to him by ſucceſſion, he ſhould not have it in his power to alter the eſtabliſhed laws, or grant any church to perſons of the Roman communion, for the public exerciſe of their religion; and that he ſhould be excluded from all ſhare in the education of his ſons, the eldeſt of whom ſhould be put in poſſeſſion of the county of Hanau upon his father's acceſſion to the regency of the landgraviate. Theſe reſolutions were guarantied by the kings of Pruſſia and Denmark, by the Maritime Powers, and the Evangelic Body of the empire.

The hereditary prince of Heſſe Caſſel profeſſes the Roman catholic religion.

The exile of the parliament of Paris, far from having intimidated the other tribunals from performing

An. 1754. forming what they apprehended to be their duty, ſerved only to inflame the diſcontents of the people, and to animate all the courts of juſtice to a full exertion of their authority. The chatelet continued to proſecute thoſe prieſts who refuſed the ſacrament to perſons whoſe conſciences would not allow them to ſubſcribe the bull Unigenitus, even after three of their members were ſent to the Baſtile. The ſame proſecutions were carried on, and bold remonſtrances publiſhed by the parliaments of Aix and Rouen. In a word, the whole kingdom was filled with ſuch confuſion as threatened a total ſuppreſſion of juſtice, a general ſpirit of diſaffection, and univerſal anarchy. The prelates, mean while, ſeemed to triumph in the combuſtion they had raiſed. They entered into aſſociations to ſupport each other: they intrigued at court, and harraſſed the king with inſolent declarations, until he grew tired of their proceedings, and opened his eyes to the fatal conſequences of their pride and obſtinacy. He even took an opportunity of exhorting the archbiſhop of Paris to act more ſuitably to the character of a clergyman. He recalled the parliament from exile, and they returned in triumph, amidſt the acclamations of the people, who celebrated their arrival at Paris with the moſt extravagant demonſtrations of joy; and the archbiſhop, notwithſtanding the king's expreſs declaration to the contrary, ſtill perſiſting in countenancing the recuſant prieſts, was baniſhed to Conflans-ſous-Charenton.

The parliament of Paris recalled from exile.

Affairs of Spain and Portugal.

In Spain the intereſt of Great Britain was ſo warmly eſpouſed, and ſo powerfully ſupported by Mr. Wall, who had been reſident in England, that

the French party, though countenanced by the queen-mother, and ſuſtained with all the influence of the marquis de la Enſenada the prime miniſter, was totally defeated. The king being convinced that it would be for the intereſt of his ſubjects to live on good terms with England, and well appriſed of Enſenada's intrigues, ordered that miniſter to be arreſted and confined, and beſtowed upon Mr. Wall the beſt part of his employments. Nevertheleſs the Spaniards in the Weſt Indies continued to oppreſs the ſubjects of Great Britain employed in cutting logwood in the bay of Honduras; and repreſentations on this head being made to the court of Madrid, the diſpute was amicably adjuſted between Mr. Wall and Sir Benjamin Keene the Britiſh ambaſſador. While the intereſt of Britain thus triumphed in Spain, it ſeemed to loſe ground at the court of Lisbon. His Portugueſe majeſty had formed vaſt projects of an active commerce, and even eſtabliſhed an Eaſt India company: in the mean time he could not help manifeſting his chagrin at the great quantities of gold which were yearly exported from his dominions, as the balance due from his ſubjects on Engliſh commodities. In his endeavours to check this traffic, which he deemed ſo detrimental to his ſubjects, he inflicted hardſhips on the Britiſh merchants ſettled at Lisbon: ſome were impriſoned on frivolous pretences; others deprived of their property, and obliged to quit the kingdom. He inſiſted upon laying an impoſition of two per centum on all the Portugueſe gold that ſhould be exported; but the profits of the trade would not bear ſuch an exaction. Mean while, there being a ſcarcity An. 1754.

An. 1754. ſcarcity of corn in Portugal, the kingdom was ſupplied from England; and the people having nothing but gold to purchaſe this neceſſary ſupply, the king ſaw the neceſſity of conniving at the exportation of his coin, and the trade reverted into its former channel.

The Britiſh parliament opened.

On the fourteenth day of November the king of Great Britain opened the ſeſſion of parliament with an harangue, which intimated nothing of an approaching rupture. He ſaid, That the general ſtate of affairs in Europe had undergone very little alteration ſince their laſt meeting; that he had lately received the ſtrongeſt aſſurances from his good brother the king of Spain of friendſhip and confidence, which he would cultivate with harmony and good faith. He declared his principal view ſhould be to ſtrengthen the foundation, and ſecure the duration of a general peace; to improve the preſent advantages of it for promoting the trade of his good ſubjects, and protecting thoſe poſſeſſions which conſtituted one great ſource of their wealth and commerce. Finally, he exhorted them to compleat their plan for appropriating the forfeited eſtates in the Highlands to the ſervice of the public. He probably avoided mentioning the encroachments of France, that he might ſupply no handle for debates on the addreſs, which was carried in both houſes almoſt without oppoſition.

The government ſeemed determined to humble the inſolence of the French councils; and this diſpoſition was ſo agreeable to the people in general, that they begrudged no expence, and heartily concurred with the demands of the miniſtry.

The

The commons granted for the ſervice of the enſuing year four millions ſeventy-three thouſand ſeven hundred and twenty-nine pounds; one million of that ſum expreſly given for enabling his majeſty to augment his forces by land and ſea. Thirty-two thouſand pounds were allotted as a ſubſidy to the king of Poland, and twenty thouſand to the elector of Bavaria. Theſe gratifications met with little or no oppoſition in the committee of ſupply; becauſe it was taken for granted, that, in caſe of a rupture, France would endeavour to avail herſelf of her ſuperiority by land, by invading his Britannic majeſty's German dominions; and therefore it might be neceſſary to ſecure the aſſiſtance of ſuch allies on the continent. That they prognoſticated aright, with reſpect to the deſigns of that ambitious power, will ſoon appear in the courſe of this hiſtory; which will alſo demonſtrate how little dependence is to be placed upon the profeſſed attachment of ſubſidiary princes. An. 1754. Supplies granted.

The ſupplies were raiſed by the ſtanding branches of the revenue, the land tax and malt tax, and a lottery for one million; one hundred thouſand pounds of it to be deducted for the ſervice of the public, and the remaining nine hundred thouſand to be charged on the produce of the ſinking fund, at the rate of three per centum per annum, to commence from the fifth day of January in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſix.

The civil tranſactions of this ſeſſion were confined to a few objects. Divers new regulations were made for encouraging and improving the whale and white herring fiſhery, as well as for finiſhing and putting

An. 1754. putting in a proper ſtate of defence a new fort, lately built at Anamaboe on the coaſt of Africa.

Bill in behalf of Chelſea penſioners.

Mr. Pitt, the paymaſter-general of the forces, brought in a bill, which will ever remain a ſtanding monument of his humanity. The poor diſabled veterans, who enjoyed the penſion of Chelſea hoſpital, were ſo iniquitouſly oppreſſed by a ſet of miſcreants, who ſupplied them with money per advance, at the moſt exorbitant rates of uſury, that many of them with their families were in danger of ſtarving; and the intention of the government in granting ſuch a comfortable ſubſiſtance, was in a great meaſure defeated. Mr. Pitt, perceiving that this evil originally flowed from the delay of the firſt payment, which the penſioner could not touch till the expiration of a whole year after he had been put upon the liſt, removed this neceſſity of borrowing, by providing in the bill, that half a year's penſion ſhould be advanced half a year before it is due; and the practice of uſury was effectually prevented by a clauſe, importing, that all contracts ſhould be void, by which any penſion might be mortgaged. This humane regulation was unanimouſly approved, and having paſſed through both houſes with uncommon expedition, received the royal aſſent.

Oxfordſhire election.

Notwithſtanding the unanimity manifeſted by the commons, in every thing relating to the meaſures for acting vigorouſly againſt the common enemy of the nation, they were remarkably diſturbed and divided by a conteſted election of members for Oxfordſhire. In the courſe of this diſpute, the ſtrength and influence of what they called

called the old and new intereſt, or, to ſpeak more intelligibly, of the Tories and Whigs in that county, were fully diſplayed. The candidates ſuſtained on the ſhoulders of the old intereſt, were the lord viſcount Wenman, and Sir James Daſhwood; and their competitors, whom the new intereſt ſupported, and of conſequence the miniſtry countenanced, were lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner. Never was any contention of this kind maintained with more ſpirit and animoſity, or carried on at a greater expence. One would have imagined that each ſide conſidered it as a diſpute which muſt have determined, whether the nation ſhould enjoy its antient liberty, or tamely ſubmit to the fetters of corruption. Noblemen and gentlemen, clergymen and ladies, employed all their talents and induſtry in canvaſſing for either ſide, throughout every townſhip and village in the county. Scandal emptied her whole quiver of inſinuation, calumny, and lampoon; corruption was not remiſs in promiſes and preſents: houſes of entertainment were opened; and nothing was for ſome time to be ſeen but ſcenes of tumult, riot, and intoxication. The revenue of many an independent prince on the continent would not have been ſufficient to afford ſuch ſums of money as were expended in the courſe of this diſpute. At length they proceeded to election, and the ſheriff made a double return of all the four candidates, ſo that not one of them could ſit, and the county remained without a repreſentative until this ambiguous affair could be decided in the houſe of commons. About the middle of November petitions being preſented by the four candidates, as well as by An. 1754.

An. 1754. by the gentlemen, clergy, and other freeholders of the county, complaining of an undue election, and double return, the matter of theſe petitions was heard at the bar of the houſe on the third day of December. The counſel for lord Wenman and Sir James Daſhwood alledged, that they had the majority of votes upon the poll; and this circumſtance was admitted by the counſel on the other ſide: then they proceeded to prove by evidence, that, after cloſing the poll, the ſheriff declared the majority of votes to be in favour of theſe two candidates, and adjourned the court from the twenty-third day of April to the eighth of May; ſo that the ſcrutiny demanded, and granted on the behalf of lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner could not be diſcuſſed before the laſt day of the month, when the writ was returnable: that the ſcrutiny did not begin 'till the ninth day of May, when the time was protracted by diſputes about the manner in which it ſhould be carried on; that lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner were allowd to object, through the whole poll, to the votes on the other ſide, on pretence that their competitors ſhould be permitted to anſwer theſe objections, and in their turn, object through the whole poll to the voters for lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner, who ſhould, in the laſt place, have leave to anſwer: that lord Wenman and Sir James Daſhwood had diſapproved of this method, becauſe they apprehended it might induce their competitors to make ſuch a number of frivolous objections, that they ſhould not have time to anſwer one half of them, much leſs to make objections of their own before the writ ſhould be returned: that, they fore-

foreſaw, ſuch a number of frivolous objections were made, as engroſſed the attention of the court till the twenty-ſeventh day of May; ſo that they could not begin to anſwer any of theſe objections till the twenty-eighth; and on the thirtieth the ſheriff, having cloſed the ſcrutiny, made the double return. The proof being exhibited, the counſel inſiſted, that, as they had eſtabliſhed a majority on the poll, and demonſtrated that this majority neither was nor could be overthrown by ſuch an unfiniſhed ſcrutiny, it was incumbent on the other ſide to proceed upon the merits of the election, by endeavouring to overthrow that majority of which their clients were in poſſeſſion. A queſtion in the houſe being carried to the ſame purpoſe, lord Wenman and Sir James Daſhwood objected to five hundred and thirty voters on the other ſide, whom they propoſed to diſqualify. Their counſel examined ſeveral witneſſes, to prove the partiality of the ſheriff in favour of lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner, and to detect theſe candidates in the practice of bribery; for which purpoſe they produced a letter in their own hand-writing. They afterwards proceeded to diſqualify particular votes, and ſummed up their evidence on the twenty-firſt day of January. Then the counſel for the other ſide began to refute the charge of partiality and corruption; and to anſwer the objections that had been made to particular voters. They produced evidence to prove, that cuſtomary freeholds, or cuſtomary holdings, had voted at elections in the counties of Glamorgan, Monmouth, Glouceſter, Wells, and Hereford; and that the cuſtomary tenants of the manor of Wodeſtock, An. 1754.

An. 1754. ſtock, in Oxfordſhire, had been reputed capable of voting, and even voted at elections for that county. In a word, they continued to examine evidences, argue and refute, prove and diſprove, until the twenty-third day of April, when, after ſome warm debates and diviſions in the houſe, lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner were declared duly elected; and the clerk of the crown was ordered to amend the return, by erazing the names of lord Wenman and Sir James Daſhwood. Many who preſumed to think for themſelves, without recollecting the power and influence of the adminiſtration, were aſtoniſhed at the iſſue of this diſpute; which, however, might have eaſily been foreſeen; inaſmuch as, during the courſe of the proceedings, moſt, if not all, of the many queſtions debated in the houſe, were determined by a great majority in favour of the new intereſt. A great number of copy-holders had been admitted to vote at this election, and the ſheriff incurred no cenſure for allowing them to take the oath appointed by law to be taken by freeholders: nevertheleſs the commons carefully avoided determining the queſtion, Whether copy-holders, poſſeſſed of the yearly value of forty ſhillings, clear of all deductions, have not a right to vote for knights to repreſent the ſhire within which their copy-hold eſtates are ſituated? This point being left doubtful by the legiſlature, puts it often in the power of the ſheriff to return which of the candidates he pleaſes to ſupport; for, if the majority of the voting copy-holders adheres to the intereſts of his favourites, he will admit their votes both on the poll and the ſcrutiny: whereas, ſhould they be other-

otherwiſe diſpoſed, he will reject them as unqua- An. 1755.
lified. What effect this practice may have upon the independency of parliament, every perſon muſt perceive, who reflects, that in almoſt all the counties of England, the high ſheriffs are annually appointed by the miniſter for the time being.

The attention of the legiſlature was chiefly turned upon the conduct of France, which preſerved no medium, but ſeemed intent upon ſtriking ſome important blow, that might ſerve as a declaration of war. At Breſt, and other ports in that kingdom, the French were employed in equipping a powerful armament, and made no ſcruple to own it was intended for North-America.

Towards the latter end of March, Sir Thomas Robinſon, ſecretary of ſtate, brought a meſſage from the king to the parliament, intimating, That his majeſty having at the beginning of the ſeſſion declared, that his principal object was to preſerve the public tranquillity, and at the ſame time to protect thoſe poſſeſſions which conſtitute one great ſource of the commerce and wealth of his kingdoms; he now finds it neceſſary to acquaint the houſe of commons, that the preſent ſituation of affairs make it requiſite to augment his forces by ſea and land, and to take ſuch other meaſures as may beſt tend to preſerve the general peace of Europe, and to ſecure the juſt rights and poſſeſſions of his crown in America, as well as to repel any attempts whatſoever that may be made to ſupport or countenance any deſigns which may be formed againſt his majeſty and his kingdoms; and his majeſty doubts not but his faithful commons, on whoſe affection and zeal he entirely relies, will en-

Meſſage from the king to the houſe of commons.

An. 1755. able him to make ſuch augmentations, and to take ſuch meaſures for ſupporting the honour of his crown, and the true intereſts of his people, and for the ſecurity of his dominions in the preſent critical conjuncture, as the exigency of affairs may require; in doing which his majeſty will have as much regard to the eaſe of his good ſubjects, as ſhall be conſiſtent with their ſafety and welfare.

In anſwer to this meſſage, a very warm and affectionate addreſs was preſented to his majeſty; and it was on this occaſion that the million was granted, for augmenting his forces by ſea and land.

The miniſtry having reſolved to ſend a body of forces to America, to act in conjunction with the provincial troops raiſed on that continent, it became neceſſary that the mutiny-act ſhould be rendered more clear and extenſive. When this bill therefore fell under conſideration, it was improved with a new clauſe, providing, That all officers and ſoldiers of any troops, being muſtered and in pay, which are or ſhall be raiſed in any of the Britiſh provinces in America, by authority of the reſpective governors or governments hereof, ſhall, at all times, and in all places, when they happen to join or act in conjunction with his majeſty's Britiſh forces, be liable to martial law and diſcipline, in like manner, to all intents and purpoſes, as the Britiſh forces are and ſhall be ſubject to the ſame trial, penalties, and puniſhments.

Additional clauſe to the money-bill.

The court of Verſailles, notwithſtanding the aſſiduity and diſpatch which they were exerting in equipping armaments and embarking troops for the ſupport of their ambitious ſchemes in America, ſtill

ſtill continued to amuſe the Britiſh miniſtry with general declarations, that no hoſtility was intended, nor the leaſt infringement of the treaty. An. 1755.

The earl of Albemarle, the Engliſh ambaſſador at Paris, having lately died in that city, theſe aſſurances were communicated to the court of London by the marquis de Mirepoix, who reſided in England with the ſame character, which he had ſupported ſince his firſt arrival with equal honour and politeneſs. On this occaſion he himſelf was ſo far impoſed upon by the inſtructions he had received, that he believed the profeſſions of his court were ſincere, and ſeriouſly endeavoured to prevent a rupture between the two nations. At length, however, their preparations were ſo notorious, that he began to ſuſpect the conſequence; and the Engliſh miniſtry produced ſuch proofs of their inſincerity and double dealing, that he ſeemed to be ſtruck with aſtoniſhment and chagrin. He repaired to France, and upbraided the miniſtry of Verſailles for having made him the tool of their diſſimulation. They referred him to the king, who ordered him to return to London, with freſh aſſurances of his pacific intentions: but his practice agreed ſo ill with his profeſſions, that the ambaſſador had ſcarce obtained an audience to communicate them, when undoubted intelligence arrived, that a powerful armament was ready to ſail from Breſt and Rochfort. The government of Great-Britain, arouſed by this information, immediately took the moſt expeditious methods for equipping a ſquadron; and towards the latter end of April, admiral Boſcawen ſailed with eleven ſhips of the line and one frigate, having on board a con-

An. 1755. ſiderable number of land-forces, to attend the motions of the enemy: but more certain and particular intelligence arriving ſoon after, touching the ſtrength of the French fleet, which conſiſted of twenty-five ſhips of the line, beſides frigates and tranſports, with a great quantity of warlike ſtores, and four thouſand regular troops, commanded by the baron Dieſkau, admiral Holbourne was detached with ſix ſhips of the line, and one frigate, to reinforce Mr. Boſcawen; and a great number of capital ſhips were put in commiſſion.

In the beginning of May, the French fleet, commanded by Mr. Macnamara, an officer of Iriſh extraction, ſailed from Breſt, directing his courſe to North-America; but, after having proceeded beyond the chops of the Engliſh channel, he returned with nine of the capital ſhips, while the reſt of the armament continued their courſe under the direction of Mr. Bois de la Mothe.

End of the ſeſſion. On the twenty-fifth day of April, the king went to the houſe of lords, where, after giving the royal aſſent to the bills then depending; for granting a certain ſum out of the ſinking-fund, for the relief of inſolvent debtors, for the better regulation of the marine forces on ſhore, for the better raiſing of marines and ſeamen, and to ſeveral other public and private bills; his majeſty put an end to the ſeſſion of parliament by a ſpeech, in which he acquainted the two houſes, That the zeal they had ſhewn for ſupporting the honour, rights, and poſſeſſions of his crowns, had afforded him the greateſt ſatisfaction: That his deſire to preſerve the public tranquillity had been ſincere and uniform: That he had religiouſly adhered to the ſtipulations of

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the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and made it his care not to injure or offend any power whatſoever; but that he never could entertain a thought of purchaſing the name of peace at the expence of ſuffering incroachments upon, or of yielding up, what juſtly belonged to Great-Britain, either by ancient poſſeſſion, or by ſolemn treaties: That the vigour and firmneſs of his parliament, on this important occaſion, had enabled him to be prepared for ſuch contingencies as might happen: That if reaſonable and honourable terms of accommodation could be agreed upon, he would be ſatisfied; and, in all events, rely on the juſtice of his cauſe, the effectual ſupport of his people, and the protection of Divine Providence. The parliament was then prorogued to the twenty-ſeventh of May. An. 1755.

Preparations for war.

Whilſt all Europe was in ſuſpence about the fate of the Engliſh and French ſquadrons, preparations for a vigorous ſea war were going forward in England with an unparalleled ſpirit and ſucceſs. Still the French court flattered itſelf that Great Britain, out of tenderneſs to his majeſty's German dominions, would deſiſt from hoſtilities. Mirepoix continued to have frequent conferences with the Britiſh miniſtry, who made no ſecret that their admirals, particularly Boſcawen, had orders to attack the French ſhips wherever they ſhould meet them. On the other hand, Monſ. de Mirepoix declared, That his maſter would conſider the firſt gun fired at ſea, in an hoſtile manner, as a declaration of war. This menace, far from intimidating the Engliſh, made them redouble their preparations for war. The preſs for ſeamen was carried on with extraordinary vigour in all parts of this kingdom, as well as in

The French ambaſſador's declaration.

An. 1755. Ireland; and great premiums were given not only by the government, but alſo, over and above his majeſty's bounty, by almoſt all the conſiderable cities and towns in England, to ſuch as ſhould inliſt voluntarily for ſailors or ſoldiers. Other branches of the public ſervice went on with equal alacrity: and ſuch was the eagerneſs of the people to lend their money to the government, that inſtead of one million, which was to be raiſed by way of lottery, three millions eight hundred and eighty thouſand pounds were ſubſcribed immediately.

The ſituation of affairs requiring his majeſty to go to Germany this ſummer, great apprehenſions aroſe in the minds of many, leſt the French ſhould either intercept him in his journey, or prevent his return. The earl Poulet had made a motion in the houſe of lords, humbly to repreſent to his majeſty, "That it was an article in the original act of ſettlement, by which the ſucceſſion of theſe kingdoms devolved to his electoral houſe, that the king ſhould not go to his foreign dominions without the conſent of parliament; and that this was a principal article in the compact between the crown and the people: That though this article was repealed in the late reign, yet, till of late, it had always been the cuſtom for his majeſty to acquaint the parliament with his intended departure to his German dominions, both in regard to the true ſenſe and ſpirit of the act that placed him on the throne, as well as for the paternal kindneſs of his royal heart, and the condeſcenſion he had been ſo good to ſhew his parliament on all occaſions; but that his majeſty's declaration of his deſign to viſit his electoral eſtates had always come on the laſt day

Earl Poulet's motion againſt his majeſty's going to Germany.

of

CHARLES FITZ-ROY Duke of GRAFTON.

of a ſeſſion, when it was too late for the great conſtitutional council of the crown to offer ſuch advice as might otherwiſe have been expedient and neceſſary: that his majeſty's leaving his kingdoms in a conjuncture ſo pregnant with diſtreſs, ſo denunciative of danger, would not only give the greateſt advantage to ſuch as might be diſpoſed to ſtir up diſaffection and diſcontent, and to the conſtitutional and national enemies of England; but would alſo fill his loyal ſubjects with the moſt affecting concern, and moſt gloomy fears, as well for their own ſafety as for that of their ſovereign, whoſe invaluable life, at all times of the utmoſt conſequence to his people, was then infinitely ſo, by reaſon of his great experience, the affection of every one to his royal perſon, and the minority of the heir apparent." Such was the purport of this motion; but it was not ſeconded by any of the other lords. An. 1755.

Regency appointed upon the king's going to Hanover.

The general uneaſineſs, on account of his majeſty's departure, was greatly increaſed by an apprehenſion that there would, during his abſence, be no good agreement amongſt the regency, which conſiſted of the following perſons: his royal highneſs William duke of Cumberland; Thomas lord archbiſhop of Canterbury; Philip earl of Hardwicke, lord high chancellor; John earl of Granville, preſident of the council; Charles duke of Marlborough, lord privy-ſeal; John duke of Rutland, ſteward of the houſhold; Charles duke of Grafton, lord chamberlain; Archibald duke of Argyle; the duke of Newcaſtle, firſt commiſſioner of the treaſury; the duke of Dorſet, maſter of the horſe; the earl of Holderneſſe, one of the ſecreta-

An. 1755. ries of ſtate; the earl of Rochford, groom of the ſtole; the marquis of Hartington, lord lieutenant of Ireland; lord Anſon, firſt commiſſioner of the admiralty; Sir Thomas Robinſon, ſecretary of ſtate; and Henry Fox, Eſq; ſecretary at war.

His majeſty ſet out from St. James's on the twenty-eighth of April early in the morning, embarked at Harwich in the afternoon, landed the next day at Helvoetſluys, and arrived at Hanover on the ſecond of May.

Boſcawen's expedition.

Admiral Boſcawen, with eleven ſhips of the line and a frigate, having taken on board two regiments at Plymouth, ſailed from thence on the twenty-ſeventh of April for the banks of Newfoundland: and, in a few days after his arrival there, the French fleet from Breſt came to the ſame ſtation, under the command of M. Bois de la Mothe. But the thick fogs, which prevail upon thoſe coaſts, eſpecially at that time of the year, kept the two armaments from ſeeing each other; and part of the French ſquadron eſcaped up the river St. Laurence, whilſt another part of them went round, and got into the ſame river through the ſtreights of Belliſle, by a way which was never known to be attempted before by ſhips of the line. However, whilſt the Engliſh fleet lay off cape Race, which is the ſouthern-moſt point of Newfoundland, and was thought to be the moſt proper ſituation for intercepting the enemy, two French ſhips, the Alcide, of ſixty-four guns, and four hundred and eighty men, and the Lys, pierced for ſixty-four guns, but mounting only twenty-two, and having eight companies of land-forces on board, being ſeparated from the reſt of their fleet in the fog, fell in

in with the Dunkirk, captain Howe, and the Defiance, captain Andrews, two ſixty-gun ſhips of the Engliſh ſquadron; and after a ſmart engagement, which laſted ſome hours, and in which captain, afterwards lord, Howe behaved with the greateſt ſkill and intrepidity, were both taken, with ſeveral conſiderable officers and engineers, and about eight thouſand pounds in money. An. 1755. The Alcide and Lys taken.

Though the taking of theſe ſhips, from which the commencement of the war may in fact be dated, fell greatly ſhort of what was hoped for from this expedition; yet, when the news of it reached England, it was of infinite ſervice to the public credit of every kind, and animated the whole nation, who now ſaw plainly that the government was determined to keep no farther meaſures with the French, but juſtly to repel force by force, and put a ſtop to their ſending more men and arms to invade the property of the Engliſh in America, as they had hitherto done with impunity. The French, who, for ſome time, did not even attempt to make repriſals on our ſhipping, would gladly have choſen to avoid a war at that time, and to have continued extending their incroachments on our ſettlements, till they had executed their grand plan of ſecuring a communication from the Miſſiſſipi to Canada by a line of forts, many of which they had already erected, and had alſo deſtroyed one of our's on the Ohio; whilſt they endeavoured to amuſe us with fruitleſs negociations about the boundaries of Nova-Scotia.

Upon the arrival of the news of this action at Paris, the French ambaſſador, M. de Mirepoix, was recalled from London, and M. de Buſſy from Hanover, The ambaſſador of France recalled.

An. 1755. Hanover, where he had juſt arrived, to attend the king of England in a public character. They complained loudly of Boſcawen's attacking the ſhips, as a breach of national faith: but it was juſtly retorted on the part of England, that their incroachments in America had rendered repriſals both juſtifiable and neceſſary. The reſolution of making them was the effect of mature deliberation in the Engliſh council. The vaſt increaſe of the French marine of late years, which, in all probability, would ſoon be employed againſt Great Britain, very properly occaſioned an order for making repriſals general in Europe as well as in America; and that all the French ſhips, whether outward or homeward bound, ſhould be ſtopt and brought into Britiſh ports. To give the greater weight to theſe orders, it was reſolved to ſend out thoſe admirals who had diſtinguiſhed themſelves moſt towards to the end of the laſt war. Accordingly, on the twenty firſt of July, Sir Edward Hawke ſailed on a cruize to the weſtward with eighteen ſhips of the line, a frigate and a ſloop; but, not meeting with the French fleet, theſe ſhips returned to England about the latter end of September and the beginning of October; on the fourteenth of which laſt month another fleet, conſiſting of twenty-two ſhips of the line, two frigates, and two ſloops, ſailed again on a cruiſe to the weſtward under admiral Byng, in hopes of intercepting the French ſquadron under Duguay, and likewiſe that commanded by La Mothe, in caſe of its return from America. But this fleet likewiſe returned to Spithead on the twenty-ſecond of November, without having been able to effect any thing, though it was

Orders for making general repriſals upon the French.

Cruiſes of the admirals Hawke and Byng.

was allowed by all, that the admiral had acted judiciouſly in the choice of his ſtations. An. 1755.

While theſe meaſures were purſuing, for the general ſecurity of the Britiſh coaſts and trade in Europe, ſeveral new ſhips of war were begun, and worked at with the utmoſt expedition, in his majeſty's docks: twelve frigates and ſloops, contracted for in private yards, were finiſhed by the month of Auguſt; and twenty-four ſhips and twelve colliers were then taken into the ſervice of the government, to be fitted out as veſſels of war, to carry twenty guns and a hundred and twenty men each. Preparations for war continued.

To give the greater ſpirit to the Engliſh ſailors, and to encourage the workmen in the dock yards, his royal highneſs the duke of Cumberland went this ſummer to Portſmouth, where he was received with the greateſt honours; and the lord Anſon, with other lords of the admiralty, viſited that place, and ſeveral other parts of the kingdom, in order to forward the maritime preparations.

In the mean time the French trade was ſo annoyed by the Engliſh cruiſers, that, before the end of this year, three hundred of their merchant-ſhips, many of which, from St. Domingo and Martinico, were extremely rich, and eight thouſand of their ſailors, were brought into Engliſh ports. By theſe captures the Britiſh miniſtry anſwered many purpoſes: they deprived the French of a great body of ſeamen, and with-held from them a very large property, the want of which greatly diſtreſſed their people, and ruined many of their traders. Their outward-bound merchant ſhips were inſured at the rate of thirty per cent. whilſt the Engliſh paid no more than the The trade of the French greatly diſtreſſed.

An. 1755. the common inſurance. This intolerable burden was felt by all degrees of people amongſt them: their miniſtry was publicly reviled, even by their parliaments; and the French name, from being the terror, began to be the contempt of Europe. Their uneaſineſs was alſo not a little heightened by new broils between their king and the parliament of Paris, occaſioned by the obſtinacy of the clergy of that kingdom, who ſeemed determined to ſupport the church, in all events, againſt the ſecular tribunals, and, as much as poſſible, to enforce the obſervance of the bull Unigenitus, which had long been the occaſion of ſo many diſputes among them. However, the parliament continuing firm, and the French king approving of its conduct, the eccleſiaſtics thought proper to ſubmit for the preſent; and, in their general aſſembly this year, granted him a free gift of ſixteen millions of livres, which he demanded of them; a greater ſum than they had ever given before, even in time of war.

Affairs of the Engliſh in America.

In the beginning of this year the aſſembly of Maſſachuſet's Bay in New England paſſed an act, prohibiting all correſpondence with the French at Louiſburg; and early in the ſpring they raiſed a body of troops, which was tranſported to Nova Scotia, to aſſiſt lieutenant-governor Laurence in driving the French from the incroachments they had made upon that province.

Accordingly, towards the end of May, the governor ſent a large detachment of troops, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Monkton, upon this ſervice; and three frigates and a ſloop were diſpatched up the bay of Fundy, under the com-

mand of captain Rous, to give their aſſiſtance by ſea. The troops, upon their arrival at the river Maſſaguaſh, found the paſſage ſtopt bv a large number of regular forces, rebel neutrals, or Acadians, and Indians, four hundred and fifty of whom were poſted in a block-houſe, with cannon mounted on their ſide of the river; and the reſt were poſted within a ſtrong breaſt-work of timber, thrown up by way of outwork to the block-houſe. The Engliſh provincials attacked this place with ſuch ſpirit, that, in an hour's time, the enemy were obliged to fly, and leave them in poſſeſſion of the breaſt-work; whereupon the garriſon in the block-houſe deſerted it, and left the paſſage of the river free. From thence colonel Monkton advanced to the French fort of Beau-ſejour, which he inveſted, as far at leaſt as the ſmall number of his troops would permit, on the twelfth of June; and, after four days bombardment, he obliged it to ſurrender, though the French had twenty-ſix pieces of cannon mounted, and plenty of ammunition, and the Engliſh had not yet placed a ſingle cannon upon their batteries. The garriſon was ſent to Louiſbourg, on condition of not bearing arms in America for the ſpace of ſix months; and the Acadians, who had joined the French, were pardoned, in conſideration of their having been forced into that ſervice.

An. 1755.

Beau-ſejour taken by colonel Monkton.

Colonel Monkton, after putting a garriſon into this place, and changing its name into that of Cumberland. the next day attacked and reduced the other French fort upon the river Gaſpereau, which runs into bay Verte; where he likewiſe found a large quantity of proviſions and ſtores of all kinds, that

An. 1755. that being the chief magazine for ſupplying the French Indians and Acadians with arms, ammunition, and other neceſſaries. He then diſarmed theſe laſt, to the number of fifteen thouſand: and, in the mean time, captain Rous with his ſhips ſailed to the mouth of the river St. John, to attack the new fort the French had erected there; but they ſaved him that trouble, by abandoning it upon his appearance, after burſting their cannon, blowing up their magazine, and deſtroying, as far as they had time, all the works they had lately raiſed. The Engliſh had but twenty men killed, and about the ſame number wounded, in the whole of this expedition, the ſucceſs of which ſecured the tranquillity of Nova Scotia.

While the New Englanders were thus employed in reducing the French in Nova Scotia, preparations were made in Virginia for attacking them upon the Ohio. A fort was built, which was likewiſe called Fort Cumberland, and a camp formed, at Wills's Creek; and, on the fourteenth of January of this year, major-general Braddock, with colonel Dunbar's and colonel Halket's regiments of foot, ſailed from Cork in Ireland for Virginia, where they all landed ſafe before the end of February. This general might conſequently have entered upon action early in the ſpring, had he not been unfortunately delayed by the Virginian contractors for the army, who, when he was ready to march, had neither provided a ſufficient quantity of proviſions for his troops, nor a competent number of carriages for his army.

General Braddock's unfortunate expedition.

This accident was foreſeen by almoſt every perſon who knew any thing of our plantations upon the conti-

continent of America: for the people of Virginia, who think of no produce but their tobacco, and do not raiſe corn enough even for their own ſubſiſtance, being, by the nature of their country, well provided with the conveniency of water-conveyance, have but few wheel-carriages, or beaſts of burden; whereas Penſylvania, which abounds in corn, and moſt other ſorts of proviſions, has but little water-carriage, eſpecially in its weſtern ſettlements, where its inhabitants have great numbers of carts, waggons, and horſes. Mr. Braddock ſhould therefore certainly, in point of prudence, have landed in Penſylvania: the contract for ſupplying his troops ſhould have been made with ſome of the chief planters there, who could eaſily have performed their engagements; and if his camp had been formed near Frank's-town, or ſomewhere upon the ſouth-weſt borders of that province, he would not have had eighty miles to march from thence to Fort Du Queſne, inſtead of an hundred and thirty miles that he had to advance from Wills's Creek, where he did encamp, through roads neither better nor more practicable than the other would have been. This error, in the very beginning of the expedition, whether owing to an injudicious preference fondly given to the Virginians in the lucrative job of ſupplying theſe troops, or to any other cauſe, delayed the march of the army for ſome weeks, during which it was in the utmoſt diſtreſs for neceſſaries of all kinds; and would probably have defeated the expedition intirely for that ſummer, had not the contractors found means to procure ſome aſſiſtance from the back-ſettlements of Penſylvania. But even when An. 1755.

An. 1755. theſe ſupplies did arrive, they conſiſted of only fifteen waggons, and an hundred draught horſes, inſtead of an hundred and fifty waggons and three hundred horſes, which the Virginian contractors had engaged to furniſh, and the proviſions were ſo bad that they could not be uſed. However, ſome gentlemen in Penſylvania, being applied to in this exigency, amply made up for theſe deficiencies, and the troops were by this means ſupplied with every thing they wanted.

Another, and ſtill more fatal, error was committed in the choice of the commander for this expedition. Major-general Braddock, who was appointed to it, was undoubtedly a man of courage, and expert in all the punctilios of a review, having been brought up in the Engliſh guards; but he was naturally very haughty, poſitive, and difficult of acceſs; qualities ill ſuited to the temper of the people amongſt whom he was to command. His extreme ſeverity in matters of diſcipline had always made his ſoldiers diſlike him; and the ſtrict military education in which he had been trained from his youth, and which he prided himſelf on ſtrictly following, made him hold the American militia in great contempt, becauſe they could not go through their exerciſe with the ſame dexterity and regularity as a regiment of guards in Hyde-Park, little knowing, or indeed being able to form any idea of the difference between the European manner of fighting, and an American expedition through woods, deſerts, and moraſſes. Before he left England, he received, in the hand-writing of colonel Napier, a ſet of inſtructions from the duke of Cumberland, which did honour to the military

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ſkill of that prince. By theſe inſtructions, the attempt upon Niagara was, in a great meaſure, referred to him; and the reduction of Crown-Point was to be left chiefly to the provincial forces. But, above all, his royal highneſs, both verbally and in this writing, frequently cautioned him carefully to beware of an ambuſh or ſurprize. Inſtead of regarding this ſalutary caution, his conceit of his own abilities made him diſdain to aſk the opinion of any under his command; and the Indians, who would have been his ſafeſt guards againſt his danger in particular, were ſo diſguſted by the haughtineſs of his behaviour, that moſt of them forſook his banners. An. 1755.

His incautious march towards Fort Du Queſne.

Under theſe diſadvantages he began his march from Fort Cumberland on the tenth of June, at the head of about two thouſand two hundred men, for the Meadows, where colonel Waſhington was defeated the year before. Upon his arrival there, he was informed, that the French at Fort Du Queſne, which had lately been built on the ſame river, near its confluence with the Monangahela, expected a reinforcement of five hundred regular troops: therefore, that he might march with the greater diſpatch, he left colonel Dunbar, with eight hundred men, to bring up the proviſions, ſtores, and heavy baggage, as faſt as the nature of the ſervice would permit; and with the other twelve hundred, together with ten pieces of cannon, and the neceſſary ammunition and proviſions, he marched on with ſo much expedition, that he ſeldom took any time to reconnoitre the woods or thickets he was to paſs through; as if the nearer he approached the enemy, the farther he was removed from danger.

An. 1755. On the eighth of July, he encamped within ten miles of fort Du Queſne; and though colonel Dunbar was then near forty miles behind him, and his officers, particularly Sir Peter Halket, earneſtly intreated him to proceed with caution, and to employ the friendly Indians that were with him, by way of advanced guard, in caſe of ambuſcades; yet he reſumed his march the next day, without ſo much as endeavouring to get any intelligence of the ſituation or diſpoſition of the enemy, or even ſending out any ſcouts to viſit the woods and thickets then on both ſides of him, as well as in his front. With this carleſſneſs he was advancing, when, about noon, he was ſaluted with a general fire upon his front, and all along his left flank, from an enemy ſo artfully concealed behind the trees and buſhes that not a man of them could be ſeen, and who had cunningly given the whole army time to enter the defile before they began to fire. The van-guard immediately fell back upon the main body, and in an inſtant the pannic and confuſion, particularly of the regulars, became general; ſo that moſt of them fled with great precipitation, notwithſtanding all that their officers, ſome of whom behaved very gallantly, could do to ſtop their career. As to Braddock himſelf, he diſcovered at once the greateſt intrepidity, and the higheſt imprudence; for, inſtead of ordering a retreat till he could ſcour the thickets and buſhes from whence the fire came, with grape-ſhot from the ten pieces of cannon he had with him, or ordering flanking parties of his Indians to advance againſt the enemy, he obſtinately continued upon the ſpot where he was, and gave orders for the few brave officers and men who remained with him, to form regularly and ad-

He falls into an ambuſcade.

Is defeated.

advance. While this was doing, his men fell thick about him, and almoſt all his officers were ſingled out, one after another, and killed or wounded; for the Indians, who always take aim when they fire, and aim chiefly at the officers, diſtinguiſhed them by their dreſs. At laſt the general, whoſe obſtinacy ſeemed to increaſe with the danger, after having had five horſes ſhot under him, received himſelf a muſket-ſhot thro' the right arm and lungs, of which he died four days after, having been carried off the field by the bravery of lieutenant colonel Gage, and another of his officers. When he dropped, the confuſion of the few that remained, turned into a downright and very diſorderly flight, though no enemy appeared, or attempted to attack them. All the artillery, ammunition, and baggage of the army were left to the enemy, and among the reſt the general's cabinet, with all his letters and inſtructions, which the French court afterwards made great uſe of in their printed memorials or manifeſtoes. But what was very extraordinary, the provincial militia, ſo much deſpiſed by the general, that he made them march always in the rear, not only were leſs affected with the pannic, and preſerved their order better than the regular troops, though the enemy's fire fell as heavy upon them as upon any of the reſt, but even offered to cover the fugitives: and when the latter refuſed to ſtand their ground, ſaying, that though they were willing to advance againſt an open enemy, they would not ruſh blindly on againſt brakes and buſhes that were lined with unſeen deſtruction; the former alone bravely formed, and advanced againſt the Indians: to which gallantry it was owing that the regulars were not all cut off. The loſs of the Engliſh

An. 1755.

Is killed.

An. 1755. liſh in this unhappy affair amounted to ſeven hundred men. Their officers, in particular, ſuffered much more than in the ordinary proportion of battles in Europe. Sir Peter Halket fell by the very firſt fire, at the head of his regiment; and the general's ſecretary, ſon to governor Shirley, was killed ſoon after. Neither the number of men which the enemy had in this engagement, nor the loſs which they ſuſtained, could be ſo much as gueſſed at: but the French afterwards gave out that their number did not, in the whole, exceed four hundred men, moſtly Indians; and that their loſs was quite inconſiderable, as it probably was, becauſe they lay concealed in ſuch a manner that the Engliſh knew not whither to point their muſkets. The pannic of theſe laſt continued ſo long, that they never ſtopped till they met the rear diviſion; and even then they infected thoſe troops with their terrors; ſo that the army retreated without ſtopping, till they reached fort Cumberland, though the enemy did not ſo much as attempt to purſue, nor ever appeared in ſight, either in the battle, or after the defeat. On the whole, this was perhaps the moſt extraordinary victory that ever was obtained, and the fartheſt flight that was ever made. This ſeems to be the cleareſt account that has yet been given of this unfortunate affair, which, though recent in remembrence, is darker and related with a greater variety of circumſtances than might have been expected of an event which had happened in diſtant ages.

Error of the Engliſh commander after this defeat.

Had the ſhattered remains of this army continued at fort Cumberland, and fortified themſelves there, as they might eaſily have done during the reſt of the ſummer, they would have been ſuch a check upon the French and their ſcalping Indians, as

as would have prevented many of thoſe ravages that were committed in the enſuing winter upon the weſtern borders of Virginia and Penſylvania; but inſtead of taking that prudent ſtep, he left only the ſick and wounded at that fort, under the protection of two companies of the provincial militia, poſted there by way of garriſon, and ſet out on the ſecond of Auguſt, with about ſixteen hundred men, for Philadelphia; where thoſe troops could be of no immediate ſervice, and from whence they were ordered away to Albany in New York by general Shirley, on whom the chief command of the troops in America had devolved by the death of major-general Braddock. An. 1755.

Defenceleſs ſtate of Virginia, Maryland, and Penſylvania.

Virginia, Maryland, and Penſylvania, were by theſe means left intirely to take care of themſelves, which they might have done effectually, had they been united in their councils: but the uſual diſputes, between their governors and aſſemblies, defeated every ſalutary plan that was propoſed.

Diſagreement between the governor and aſſembly of Penſylvania.

Penſylvania, the moſt powerful of the three, was rendered quite impotent, either for its own defence, or that of its neighbours, by theſe unhappy conteſts; though, at laſt, the aſſembly of that province, ſenſible of the danger to which they were expoſed, and ſeeing the abſolute neceſſity of providing a ſtanding military force, and of erecting ſome forts to defend their weſtern frontier, paſſed a bill for raiſing fifty thouſand pounds. But even this ſum, ſmall as it was, even to a degree of ridicule, conſidering the riches of the province, and the extent of its frontier, could not be obtained; the governor poſitively refuſing to give his aſſent to the act of the aſſembly, becauſe they had taxed the proprietors eſtate equally with thoſe of the inhabitants,

An. 1755. habitants, which, he ſaid, he was ordered by his inſtructions not to conſent to, nor indeed to any new tax upon the proprietaries; and the aſſembly, conſiſting chiefly of members whoſe eſtates lay in the eaſtern or interior parts of the province, as poſitively refuſing to alter their bill.

One would be apt to think, that, in a caſe of ſuch urgent neceſſity, the governor might have ventured to give his aſſent to the bill, under a proteſt, that it ſhould not prejudice the rights of the proprietaries upon any future occaſion: but as he did not, the bill was dropt, and the province left defenceleſs; by which it afterwards ſuffered ſeverely, to the deſtruction of many of the poor inhabitants upon the weſtern frontier, and to the impreſſing Indians with a contemptible opinion of the Engliſh, and the higheſt eſteem of the French.

The colonies to the northward more active.

Our colonies to the north of Penſylvania were more active, and more ſucceſsful in their preparations for war. New York, following the example of New England, paſſed an act to prohibit the ſending of proviſions to any French port or ſettlement on the continent of North America, or any of the adjacent iſlands; and alſo for raiſing forty-five thouſand pounds, on eſtates real and perſonal, for the better defence of their colony, which lay more expoſed than any other to a French invaſion from Crown Point. However, this ſum, great as it might ſeem to them, was far from being ſufficient; nor indeed could they have provided properly for their ſecurity, without the aſſiſtance of our other colonies to the eaſt of them: but with their help, and the additional ſuccour of the ſmall body of regular troops expected to arrive there under colonel

colonel Dunbar, they boldly reſolved upon offenſive meaſures, which, when practicable, are always beſt for defence; and two expeditions, one againſt the French fort at Crown-Point, and the other againſt their fort at Niagara, between the lakes Ontario and Erie, were ſet on foot at the ſame time. An. 1755.

The expedition againſt Crown-Point and Niagara reſolved on.

The former of theſe expeditions was appointed to be executed under the command of colonel, now general Johnſon, a native of Ireland, who had long reſided upon the Mohock river, in the weſtern parts of New York, where he had acquired a conſiderable eſtate, and was univerſally beloved, not only by the inhabitants, but alſo by the neighbouring Indians, whoſe language he had learnt, and whoſe affections he had gained by his humanity towards them. The expedition againſt Niagara was commanded by general Shirley himſelf.

The rendezvous of the troops for both theſe expeditions was appointed to be at Albany, where moſt of them arrived before the end of June: but the artillery, battoes, proviſions, and other neceſſaries for the attempt upon Crown-Point, could not be prepared until the eighth of Auguſt, when general Johnſon ſet out with them from Albany for the Carrying-place, from Hudſon's river to lake George, where the troops had already arrived, under the command of major-general Lyman, and conſiſted of between five and ſix thouſand men, beſides Indians, raiſed by the governments of Boſton, Connecticut, New Hampſhire, Rhode Iſland, and New York. Every thing was then prepared as faſt as poſſible for a march; and towards the end of the month general Johnſon advanced about

An. 1755. fourteen miles forward with his troops, and encamped in a very ſtrong ſituation, covered on each ſide by a thick wooded ſwamp, by Lake George in his rear, and by a breaſt-work of trees, cut down for that purpoſe, in his front. Here he reſolved to wait the arrival of his battoes, and afterwards to proceed to Ticonderoga, at the other end of the lake, from whence it was but about fifteen miles to the fort at the ſouth end of Lake Corlaer, or Champlain, called Fort Frederic by the French, and by us Crown-Point. Whilſt he was thus encamped, ſome of his Indian ſcouts, of which he took care to ſend out numbers along both ſides, and to the farther end of Lake George, brought him intelligence that a conſiderable number of the enemy were then on their march from Ticonderoga, by the way of the ſouth Bay, towards the fortified encampment, ſince called Fort Edward, which general Lyman had built at the Carrying-place, and in which four or five hundred of the New Hampſhire and New York men had been left as a garriſon. Upon this information general Johnſon ſent out two expreſſes, one after the other, to colonel Blanchard, their commander, with orders to call in all his out-parties, and to keep his whole force within the intrenchmetts. About twelve o'clock at night, thoſe who had been ſent upon the ſecond expreſs returned, with an account of their having ſeen the enemy within four miles of the camp at the Carrying-place, which they ſcarcely doubted their having by that time attacked. Important as the defence of this place was for the ſafety of the whole army, and imminent as the danger ſeemed to be, it does not appear that the gene-

General Johnſon encamps at lake George.

general then called any council of war, or reſolved upon any thing for its relief: but early the next morning he called a council, wherein it was unadviſedly reſolved to detach a thouſand men, with a number of Indians, to intercept, or, as the general's expreſſion is in his letter, to catch the enemy in their retreat, either as victors, or as defeated in their deſign; and this expedient was reſolved on, tho' no one knew the number of the enemy, nor could obtain any information in that reſpect from the Indian ſcouts, becauſe the Indians have no words or ſigns for expreſſing any large number, which, when it exceeds their reckoning, they ſignify by pointing to the ſtars in the firmament, or to the hair of the head; and this they often do to denote a number leſs than a thouſand, as well as to ſignify ten thouſand, or any greater number. An. 1755.

Where he is attacked by the French

The reſolution of the council being unanimouſly agreed to, between eight and nine o'clock in the morning a thouſand men, with upwards of two hundred Indians, were detached under the command of colonel Williams: but they had not been gone two hours when thoſe in the camp begun to hear a cloſe firing, at about three or four miles diſtance, as they judged: as it approached nearer and nearer, they rightly ſuppoſed that their detachment was overpowered, and retreating towards the camp; which was ſoon confirmed by ſome fugitives, and preſently after by whole companies, who fled back in great confuſion. In a very ſhort time after, the enemy appeared marching in a regular order up to the center of the camp, where the conſternation was ſo great, that, if they had attacked the breaſt-work directly, they might probably have thrown

An. 1755. thrown all into confuſion, and obtained an eaſy victory: but, fortunately for the Engliſh, they halted for ſome time at about an hundred and fifty yards diſtance, and from thence began their attack with platoon firing, too far off to do much hurt, eſpecially againſt troops who were defended by a ſtrong breaſt-work. On the contrary, this ineffectual fire ſerved only to raiſe the ſpirits of theſe laſt, who, having prepared their artillery during the time that the French halted, began to play it ſo briſkly upon the enemy, that the Canadians and Indians in their ſervice fled immediately into the woods on each ſide of the camp, and there ſquatted behind buſhes, or ſculked behind trees, from whence they continued firing with very little execution, moſt of their ſhot being intercepted by the brakes and thickets; for they never had the courage to advance to the verge of the wood.

who are intirely defeated.

Baron Dieſkau, who commanded the French, being thus left alone, with his regular troops, at the front of the camp, finding he could not make a cloſe attack upon the center with his ſmall number of men, moved firſt to the left, and then to the right, at both which places he endeavoured to force a paſſage; but was repulſed, as being unſupported by the irregulars. Inſtead of retreating, as he ought in prudence to have done, he ſtill continued his platoon and buſh firing till four o'clock in the afternoon, during which time his regular troops ſuffered greatly by the fire from the camp, and were at laſt thrown into confuſion; which was no ſooner perceived by general Johnſon's men, than they, without waiting for orders, jumped over their breaſt-work, attacked the enemy

on

on all ſides, and, after killing or taking a conſiderable number of them, intirely diſperſed the reſt. An. 1755.

The French, whoſe numbers, at the beginning of this engagement, amounted to about two thouſand men, including two hundred grenadiers, eight hundred Canadians, and the reſt Indians of different nations, had between ſeven and eight hundred men killed, and thirty taken priſoners: among theſe laſt was baron Dieſkau himſelf, who was found at a little diſtance from the field of battle dangerouſly wounded, and leaning on the ſtump of a tree for his ſupport. The Engliſh loſt about two hundred men, and thoſe chiefly of the detachment under colonel Williams; for they had very few either killed or wounded in the attack upon their camp, and not any of diſtinction, except colonel Titcomb killed, and the general himſelf and major Nichols wounded. Among the ſlain of the detachment, which would probably have been almoſt intirely cut off, had not lieutenant-colonel Cole been ſent out from the camp with three hundred men, with which he ſtopt the enemy's purſuit, and covered the retreat of his friends, were colonel Williams, major Aſhley, ſix captains, and ſeveral ſubalterns, beſides private men; and the Indians reckoned that they had loſt forty men, beſides the brave old Hendrick, the Mohock Sachem, or chief captain.

Errors of the commanders on both ſides.

When baron Dieſkau ſet out from Ticonderoga, his deſign was only to ſurpriſe and cut off the intrenched camp, now called Fort Edward, at the Carrying place, where there were but four or five hundred men. If he had executed this ſcheme, our army would have been thrown into great difficulties; for

An. 1755. for it could neither have proceeded farther, nor have ſubſiſted where it was, and he might have found an opportunity to attack it with great advantage in its retreat. But when he was within four or five miles of that fort, his people were informed that there were ſeveral cannon there, and none at the camp; upon which they all deſired to be led on to this laſt, which he the more readily conſented to, as he himſelf had been told by an Engliſh priſoner, who had left this camp but a few days before, that it was quite defenceleſs, being without any lines, and deſtitute of cannon; which, in effect, was true at that time; for the cannon did not arrive, nor was the breaſt-work erected, till about two days before the engagement. To this miſinformation, therefore, muſt be imputed this ſtep, which would otherwiſe be inconſiſtent with the generally allowed character and abilities of baron Dieſkau. A leſs juſtifiable error ſeems to have been committed by general Johnſon, in not detaching a party to purſue the enemy when they were defeated and fled. Perhaps he was prevented from ſo doing by the ill fate of the detachment he had ſent out in the morning under colonel Williams. However that may be, his neglect, in this reſpect, had like to have been fatal the next day to a detachment ſent from Fort Edward, conſiſting of an hundred and twenty men of the New Hampſhire regiment under captain M'Ginnes, as a reinforcement to the army at the camp. This party fell in with between three and four hundred men of Dieſkau's troops, near the ſpot where colonel Williams had been defeated the day before: but M'Ginnes, having timely notice by his

Bravery of captain M'Ginnes.

his ſcouts of the approach of an enemy, made ſuch a diſpoſition, that he not only repulſed the aſſailants, but defeated and intirely diſperſed them, with the loſs only of two men killed, eleven wounded, and five miſſing. He himſelf unfortunately died of the wounds he received in this engagement, a few days after he arrived at the camp with his party. An. 1755.

It was now judged too late in the year to proceed to the attack of Crown Point, as it would have been neceſſary, in that caſe, to build a ſtrong fort in the place where the camp then was, in order to ſecure a communication with Albany, from whence only the troops could expect to be reinforced, or ſupplied with freſh ſtores of ammunition or proviſions. They therefore ſet out upon their return ſoon after this engagement, having firſt erected a little ſtockaded fort, at the hither end of Lake George, in which they left a ſmall garriſon, as a future prey for the enemy; a misfortune which might eaſily have been foreſeen, becauſe this whole army, being country militia, was to be diſbanded, and return to their reſpective homes, as they actually did, ſoon after their retreat to Albany. Return of the army under general Johnſon.

This was all the glory, this all the advantage, that the Engliſh nation acquired by ſuch an expenſive expedition. But ſo little had the Engliſh been accuſtomed of late to hear of victory, that they rejoiced at this advantage, as if it had been an action of the greateſt conſequence. The general was highly applauded for his conduct, and liberally rewarded; for he was created a baronet by his majeſty, and preſented with five thouſand pounds by the parliament. Rewards beſtowed upon him by the king and parliament.

The

An. 1755.

General Shirley's expedition againſt Niagara.

The preparations for general Shirley's expedition againſt Niagara were not only deficient, but ſhamefully ſlow; though it was well known that even the poſſibility of his ſucceſs muſt, in a great meaſure, depend upon his ſetting out early in the year, as will appear to any perſon that conſiders the ſituation of our fort at Oſwego, this being the only way by which he could proceed to Niagara.

Deſcription of Fort Oſwego.

Oſwego lies on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the lake Ontario, near three hundred miles almoſt due-weſt from Albany in New York. The way to it from thence, though long and tedious, is the more convenient, as the far greateſt part of it admits of water-carriage, by what the inhabitants call battoes, which is a kind of light flat-bottomed boat, wideſt in the middle, and pointed at each end, of about fifteen hundred weight burden, and managed by two men, called battoe-men, with paddles and ſetting-poles, the rivers being in many places too narrow to admit of oars. From Albany to the village of Shenectady, whch is ſixteen miles, is a good waggon-road. From thence to the little Falls in the Mohock river, being ſixty-five miles, the paſſage is by water-carriage up that river, and conſequently againſt the ſtream, which in many places is ſomewhat rapid, and in others ſo ſhallow, that, when the river is low, the watermen are obliged to get out, and draw their battoes over the rifts. At the little Falls is a poſtage, or land-carriage, for about a mile, over a ground ſo marſhy, that it will not bear any wheel-carriage: but a colony of Germans, ſettled there, attend with ſledges, on which they draw the loaded battoes to the next place of embarkation upon the ſame river.

From

From thence they proceed by water up that river, for fifty miles, to the Carrying-place, near the head of it, where there is another poſtage, the length of which depends upon the dryneſs or wetneſs of the ſeaſon, but is generally above ſix or eight miles over in the ſummer months. Here the battoes are again carried upon ſledges, till they come to a narrow river called Wood's Creek, down which they are waſted on a gentle ſtream, for about forty miles, into the lake Oneyada, which ſtretches from eaſt to weſt about thirty miles, and is paſſed with great eaſe and ſafety in calm weather. At the weſtern end of this lake is the river Onondaga, which after a courſe of between twenty and thirty miles, unites with the river Cayuga, or Seneca, and their united ſtream runs into the lake Ontario, at the place where Oſwego-fort is ſituated. But this river is ſo rapid as to be ſometimes dangerous, beſides its being full of rifts and rocks; and about twelve miles on this ſide of Oſwego there is a fall of eleven feet perpendicular, where there is conſequently a poſtage, which, however, does not exceed forty yards. From thence the paſſage is eaſy quite to Oſwego. An. 1755.

and of the lake Ontario.

The lake Ontario, on which this fort ſtands, is near two hundred and eighty leagues in circumference: its figure is oval, and its depth runs from twenty to twenty-five fathoms. On the north ſide of it are ſeveral little gulphs. There is a communication between this lake and that of the Hurons by the river Tanaſuate, from whence it is a land-carriage of ſix or eight leagues to the river Toronto, which falls into it. The French have two forts of conſequence on this lake; Frontignac, which

An. 1755. which commands the river St. Laurence, where the lake communicates with it; and Niagara, which commands the communication between the lake Ontario and the lake Erie. But of theſe forts, and this laſt lake, which is one of the fineſt in the world, we ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak hereafter.

Neglect of the Engliſh in not fortifying it.

Though we had long been in poſſeſſion of fort Oſwego, and though it lay greatly expoſed to the French, particularly thoſe of Canada, upon any rupture between the two nations, we had never taken care to render it tolerably defenſible, or even to build a ſingle veſſel fit for navigating the lake: nor was this ſtrange neglect ever taken effectual notice of, till the beginning of this year, when, at a meeting which general Braddock had in April with the governors and chief gentlemen of ſeveral of our colonies, at Alexandria in Virginia, it was reſolved to ſtrengthen both the fort and garriſon at Oſwego, and to build ſome large veſſels at that place. Accordingly, a number of ſhipwrights and workmen were ſent thither in May and June. At the ſame time captain Bradſtreet marched thither, with two companies of an hundred men each, to reinforce the hundred that were there before under captain King, to which number the garriſon had been increaſed ſince our conteſts with France began to grow ſerious. For a long time before, not above twenty-five men were left to defend this poſt, which, from its great importance, and the ſituation of affairs at this juncture, moſt certainly required a much ſtronger garriſon than was put into it even at this juncture: but œconomy was the chief thing conſulted in the beginning of this war, and to that, in a great meaſure, has been owing its long duration.

From

From the above deſcription of the paſſage from Albany to Oſwego, it is plain how neceſſary it was that the troops intended for this expedition ſhould have ſet out early in the ſpring. But, inſtead of that, the very firſt of them, colonel Schuyler's New Jerſey regiment, did not begin their march till after the beginning of July! and juſt as Shirley's and Pepperell's regiments were preparing to follow, the melancholy account of Braddock's diſaſter arrived at Albany, where it ſo damped the ſpirits of the people, and ſpread ſuch a terror, that many of the troops deſerted, and moſt of the battoe-men diſperſed and run home, by which means even all the neceſſary ſtores could not be carried along with the troops. Notwithſtanding this diſappointment, general Shirley ſet out from Albany before the end of July, with as many of the troops and ſtores as he could procure a conveyance for, hoping to be joined in his route by great numbers of the Indians of the Six Nations, to whom he ſent invitations to that effect as he paſſed by their ſettlements: but they, inſtead of complying with his deſire, abſolutely declared againſt all hoſtilities on that ſide of the country; and inſiſted, that Oſwego, being a place of traffic and peace, ought not to be diſturbed either by the Engliſh or the French, as if they could have perſuaded both parties to agree to ſuch a local truce. Upon this refuſal, Mr. Shirley proceeded forward, being joined by very few Indians, and arrived at Oſwego on the ſeventeenth or eighteenth of Auguſt; but the reſt of the troops and artillery did not arrive till the laſt day of that month; and, even then, their ſtore of proviſions was not ſufficient to enable

An. 1755.

Slowneſs of the preparations for the expedition againſt Niagara.

An. 1755. them to proceed againſt Niagara, though ſome tolerable good veſſels had by this time been built and got ready for that purpoſe.

The general now reſolved to take but ſix hundred men with him for the attack of Niagara, and to leave the reſt of his army, conſiſting of about fourteen hundred more, at Oſwego, to defend that place, in caſe the French ſhould attack it in his abſence, which there was reaſon to apprehend they might, as they had then a conſiderable force at Fort Frontignac, from whence they could eaſily croſs over the lake Ontario to Oſwego. However, he was ſtill obliged to wait at Oſwego for proviſions, of which at length a ſmall ſupply arrived on the twenty-ſixth of September, barely ſufficient to ſupport his men during their intended expedition, and to allow twelve days ſhort ſubſiſtence for thoſe he left behind. But by this time the rainy boiſterous ſeaſon had begun, on which account moſt of his Indians had already left him, and were returned home; and the few that remained with him declared, that there was no croſſing the lake Ontario in battoes at that ſeaſon, or any time before the next ſummer. In this perplexity he called a council of war, which, after weighing all circumſtances, unanimouſly reſolved to defer the attempt upon Niagara till the next year, and to employ the troops, whilſt they remained at Oſwego, in building barracks, and erecting, or at leaſt beginning to erect, two new forts, one on the eaſt ſide of the river Onondaga, four hundred and fifty yards diſtant from the old fort, which it was to command, as well as the entrance of the harbour, and to be called Ontario-fort; and the other four hundred

Two new forts begun on the river Onondaga.

dred and fifty yards weſt of the old fort, to be called Oſwego new fort. An. 1755.

Theſe things being agreed on, general Shirley, with the greateſt part of the troops under his command, ſet out on his return to Albany on the twenty-fourth of October, leaving colonel Mercer, with a garriſon of only about ſeven hundred men, at Oſwego; though repeated advice had been received, that the French had then at leaſt a thouſand men at their fort of Frontignac, upon the ſame lake: and, what was ſtill worſe, the new forts were not yet near completed; but left to be finiſhed by the hard labour of colonel Mercer and his little garriſon, with the addition of this melancholy circumſtance, that, if beſieged by the enemy in the winter, it would not be poſſible for his friends to come to his aſſiſtance. General Shirley returns to Albany.

Thus ended this year's unfortunate campaign, at leaſt on the ſide of the Engliſh; for the French, with the aſſiſtance of their Indian allies, continued their murders, ſcalping, captivating, and laying waſte the weſtern frontiers of Virginia and Penſylvania, during the whole winter. Of theſe horrid ravages many diſmal accounts have been publiſhed in our news-papers, full of the moſt ſhocking barbarity on one ſide, and without any oppoſition on the other: but as a particular recital of them would lead us into a detail too minute for a general hiſtory, we ſhall paſs over thoſe private calamities, and return to the public affairs of Europe. End of this year's campaign in America.

The miniſters of the two jarring powers were very buſily employed this year at moſt of the courts of Europe; but their tranſactions were kept extremely ſecret. The French endeavoured to in-

An. 1755. ſpire the Spaniards with a jealouſy of the ſtrength of the Engliſh by ſea, eſpecially in America; and the Spaniſh court ſeemed inclined to accept of the office of mediator: but Mr. Wall, who was perfectly acquainted with the ſtate of affairs between England and France, ſeconded the repreſentations of the Britiſh miniſtry, which demonſtrated, that however willing Great Britain might be to accept of the mediation of Spain, ſhe could not agree to any ſuſpenſion of arms in America, which France inſiſted on as a preliminary condition, without hazarding the whole of her intereſt there; and that the captures which had been made by the Engliſh were the neceſſary conſequence of the incroachments and injuſtice of the French, particularly in that country. Upon this, all farther talk of the mediation of Spain was dropt, and the miniſtry of Verſailles had recourſe to the princes of Germany; amongſt whom the elector of Cologne was ſoon brought over to their party, ſo as to conſent to their forming magazines in his territories in Weſtphalia. This was a plain indication of their deſign againſt Hanover, which they ſoon after made his Britannic majeſty, who was then at Hanover, an offer of ſparing, if he would engage that affairs ſhould be adjuſted to their ſatisfaction in America: but this propoſal being rejected with diſdain, the count D'Aubeterre, envoy extraordinary from France at the court of Vienna, propoſed a ſecret negotiation with the miniſters of the Empreſs-queen; and gave broad intimations, that if ſhe would enter into the views of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, ſhe might command all that was in his power againſt the king of Pruſſia. The ſecret

Fruitleſs intrigues of the French in Spain.

Their practices in Germany.

cret articles of the treaty of Peterſburgh, between the two Empreſſes, had ſtipulated a kind of partition of the Pruſſian territories; but his Britannic majeſty, though often invited, had always refuſed to agree to any ſuch ſtipulation; and the King of Poland, though much inclined to favour the ſcheme, did not dare to avow it formally, till matters ſhould be more ripe for carrying it into execution. The court of Vienna, whoſe favourite meaſure this was, began to liſten to D'Aubeterre's inſinuations, and, by degrees, entered into negotiations with him, which, in the end, were productive of that unnatural confederacy between the Empreſs-queen and the king of France; of which farther notice will be taken in the occurrences of the next year, when the treaty between them, into which they afterwards found means ſecretly to bring the empreſs of Ruſſia, was concluded at Verſailles. An. 1755.

As it could not be doubted, even at the time of his Britannic majeſty's ſetting out for his German dominions, that the French would endeavour to invade Hanover, in caſe of a war between England and them, which ſeemed not only unavoidable, but near at hand; it was natural, that his majeſty ſhould endeavour to defend his poſſeſſions by the moſt powerful alliances he could form on the continent. To this end, during his ſtay at Hanover, he concluded, on the eighteenth of June, a treaty with the landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel, by which his ſerene highneſs engaged to hold in readineſs, during four years, for his majeſty's ſervice, a body of eight thouſand men, to be employed, if required, upon the continent, or in Britain or Ireland; Treaty of the king of Great Britain with the landgrave of Heſſe-Caſſel.

An. 1755. land; but not on board the fleet, or beyond the ſeas: and alſo, if his Britannic majeſty ſhould judge it neceſſary or advantageous for his ſervice, to furniſh and join to this body of eight thouſand men, within ſix months after they ſhould be demanded, four thouſand more, of which ſeven hundred were to be horſe or dragoons, and each regiment of infantry to have two field-pieces of cannon. The king, on his ſide, promiſed to pay to the landgrave, for theſe ſuccours, eighty crowns banco, by way of levy-money, for every trooper or dragoon duly armed and mounted, and thirty crowns banco for every foot-ſoldier; the crown to be reckoned at fifty-three ſols of Holland, or at four ſhillings and nine pence three farthings Engliſh money: and alſo to pay to his ſerene highneſs, for the eight thouſand men, an annual ſubſidy of an hundred and fifty thouſand crowns banco, during the four years, to commence from the day of ſigning the treaty; which ſubſidy was to be increaſed to three hundred thouſand crowns yearly, from the time of requiring the troops, to the time of their entering into Britiſh pay; and in caſe of their being diſmiſſed, the ſaid ſubſidy of three hundred thouſand crowns was then to revive, and be continued during the reſidue of the term: but if twelve thouſand men were demanded and furniſhed, the ſubſidy was then to be increaſed in proportion: and in caſe the king of Great Britain ſhould at any time think fit to ſend back theſe troops, before the expiration of the treaty, notice thereof was to be given to his ſerene highneſs three months beforehand; one month's pay was to be allowed them for

for their return, and they were to be furniſhed gratis with the neceſſary tranſport-veſſels. An. 1755.

Another treaty was begun with Ruſſia about the ſame time; but this did not take effect during his majeſty's reſidence at Hanover: that others were not concluded was the moſt ſurpriſing, as our ſubſidy-treaty with Saxony had then expired, and that with Bavaria was near expiring; and as the ſecuring of theſe two princes in our intereſt was at leaſt as neceſſary towards forming a ſufficient confederacy upon the continent for the defence of Hanover, as it was to ſecure the landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel. If the reaſon of their not being engaged, and no other ſeems ſo probable, was, that they refuſed to renew their treaties with England upon any terms, all that can be ſaid is, that they were guilty of flagrant ingratitude, as they had both received a ſubſidy from this kingdom for many years in time of peace, when they neither were nor could be of any ſervice to the intereſt of Great Britain.

The news of the Alcide and the Lys being taken reaches England.

On the fifteenth of July an expreſs arrived from admiral Boſcawen, with an account of his having taken the two French ſhips of war, the Alcide and the Lys. This was certainly contrary to the expectation of the court of France; for, had they apprehended any ſuch attack, they would not have ordered Mr. M'Namara to return to Breſt with the chief part of their ſquadron; nor was it, perhaps, leſs contrary to the expectation of ſome of our own miniſtry: but as matters had been carried ſo far, it was then too late to retreat; and therefore orders were ſoon after given to all our ſhips of war to make repriſals upon the French, by taking their ſhips wherever they ſhould meet them. Sir Ed-

An. 1755. ward Hawke ſailed from Portſmouth on the twenty-firſt of July, with eighteen men of war, to watch the return of the French fleet from America, which however eſcaped him, and got into Breſt on the third day of September. Commodore Frankland ſailed from Spithead for the Weſt Indies on the thirteenth of Auguſt, with four men of war, furniſhed with orders to commit hoſtilities, as well as to protect our trade and ſugar-iſlands from any inſult that the French might offer; and the duke de Mirepoix, their ambaſſador at the court of London, ſet out for Paris on the twenty-ſecond of July, without taking leave.

Return of the king to England.

A war being thus in ſome meaſure begun, his majeſty thought proper, perhaps for that reaſon, to return to his Britiſh dominions ſooner than uſual; for he left Hanover on the eight of September, and arrived on the fifteenth at Kenſington, where the treaty of alliance between him and the empreſs of Ruſſia, which he had begun during his abſence, was concluded on the thirtieth of the ſame month.

His treaty with Ruſſia.

By this treaty her Ruſſian majeſty engaged to hold in readineſs in Livonia, upon the frontiers of Lithuania, a body of troops conſiſting of forty thouſand infantry, with the neceſſary artillery, and fifteen thouſand cavalry; and alſo, on the coaſts of the ſaid province, forty or fifty galleys, with the neceſſary crews; to be ready to act, upon the firſt order, in his majeſty's ſervice, in caſe, ſaid the fifth article, which was the moſt remarkable, that the dominions of his Britannic majeſty in Germany ſhould be invaded on account of the intereſts or diſputes which regard his kingdoms; her Imperial majeſty declaring, that ſhe would look upon ſuch an

an invaſion as a caſe of the alliance of the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-two; and that the ſaid dominions ſhould be therein compriſed in this reſpect: but neither theſe troops nor gallies were to be put in motion, unleſs his Britannic majeſty, or his allies, ſhould be ſomewhere attacked; in which caſe the Ruſſian general ſhould march, as ſoon as poſſible after requiſition, to make a diverſion with thirty thouſand infantry and fifteen thouſand cavalry; and ſhould embark on board the gallies the other ten thouſand infantry, to make a deſcent according to the exigency of the affair. On the other ſide, his Britannic majeſty engaged to pay to her Ruſſian majeſty an annual ſubſidy of an hundred thouſand pounds ſterling a year, each year to be paid in advance, and to be reckoned from the day of the exchange of the ratifications, to the day that theſe troops ſhould upon requiſition go out of Ruſſia; from which day the annual ſubſidy to her Imperial majeſty was to be five hundred thouſand pounds ſterling, to be paid always four months in advance, until the troops ſhould return into the Ruſſian dominions, and for three months after their return. His Britannic majeſty, who was to be at liberty to ſend once every year into the ſaid province of Livonia a commiſſary, to ſee and examine the number and condition of the ſaid troops, further engaged, that, in caſe her Ruſſian majeſty ſhould be diſturbed in this diverſion, or attacked herſelf, he would furniſh immediately the ſuccour ſtipulated in the treaty of one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-two; and that, in caſe a war ſhould break out, he would ſend into An. 1755.

An. 1755. into the Baltic a ſquadron of his ſhips, of a force ſuitable to the circumſtances.

This was the chief ſubſtance of the treaty, which, by agreement of both parties, was to ſubſiſt for four years from the exchange of the ratifications: but in the ſeventh article theſe words were unluckily inſerted: "Conſidering alſo the proximity of the countries wherein the diverſion in queſtion will probably be made, and the facility her troops will probably have of ſubſiſting immediately in an enemy's country, ſhe takes upon herſelf alone, during ſuch a diverſion, the ſubſiſtence and treatment of the ſaid troops by ſea and land." And in the eleventh article it was ſtipulated, that all the plunder the Ruſſian army ſhould take from the enemy ſhould belong to them.

That his Britannic majeſty, who now knew enough of the court of Vienna to be ſenſible that he could expect no aſſiſtance from thence, in caſe his German dominions were invaded, ſhould enter into this convention with the empreſs of Ruſſia, in order to ſtrengthen his defence upon the continent, was extremely natural; eſpecially as he had lately lived in great friendſhip with her, and her tranſactions with the court of France had been ſo ſecret, by paſſing through only that of Vienna, that he had not yet been informed of them; neither had the project of the treaty of Verſailles then come to his knowledge, or to that of the king of Pruſſia, nor had either of theſe princes yet made any formal advances to the other.

The firſt intimation that appeared publicly of the negotiations of France with the empreſs of Germany, was, when the French miniſter, count d'Aubeterre,

terre, declared at Vienna, "That the warlike designs, with which the king his maſter was charged, were ſufficiently confuted by his great moderation, of which all Europe had manifold proofs; that his majeſty was perſuaded this groundleſs charge had given as much indignation to their Imperial Majeſties as to himſelf: that he was firmly reſolved to preſerve to Chriſtendom that tranquillity which it enjoyed through his fidelity, in religiouſly obſerving the treaty of Aix la-Chapelle: but that if his Britannic majeſty's allies took part in the war which was kindled in America, by furniſhing ſuccours to the Engliſh, his majeſty would be authoriſed to conſider and treat them as principals in it." France likewiſe made the ſame declaration to other courts.

An. 1755. Declaration of the French miniſter at the court of Vienna.

It muſt, however, be confeſſed, that the words and ſtipulation in the above recited clauſe, in the ſeventh article of the treaty of Great Britain with Ruſſia, could not but be looked upon as a menace levelled at the king of Pruſſia, who, having ſome time after found means to procure a copy of this treaty, and ſeeing it in that light, boldly declared, by his miniſters at all the courts of Europe, that he would oppoſe with his utmoſt force the entrance of any foreign troops into the empire, under any pretence whatever. This declaration was particularly diſpleaſing to the French, who had already marched large bodies of troops towards the frontiers of the empire, and erected ſeveral great magazines in Weſtphalia, with the permiſſion of the elector of Cologne, for which our miniſter at his court was, in Auguſt, ordered to withdraw from thence without taking leave. However, as ſoon as

Spirited declaration of the king of Pruſſia, in conſequence of our treaty with Ruſſia.

An. 1755. as this declaration of the king of Pruſſia was notified to the court of Verſailles, they ſent an ambaſſador extraordinary, the duke de Nivernois, to Berlin, to try to purſuade his majeſty to retract his declaration, and enter into a new alliance with them. His Pruſſian majeſty received this ambaſſador in ſuch a manner, as ſeemed to denote a diſpoſition to agree to every thing he had to propoſe. This awakened in England a jealouſy that his declaration alone was not to be relied on, but that it was neceſſary to bring him under ſome more ſolemn engagement; eſpecially as the French had by this time a numerous army near the Lower Rhine, with magazines provided for their march all the way to Hanover; and if the king of Pruſſia ſuffered them to paſs through his dominions, that electorate muſt be ſwallowed up before the Ruſſian auxiliaries could poſſibly be brought thither, or any army be formed for protecting it. For this reaſon a negotiation was ſet on foot by Great Britain at Berlin; but as it was not concluded before the beginning of the next year, we ſhall defer entering into the particulars of it, till we come to that period.

A treaty between England and Pruſſia begun.

Mean while the French made another attempt upon the court of Madrid, loudly complaining of the taking of their two men of war by Boſcawen's ſquadron, before any declaration of war was made, repreſenting it as a moſt unjuſtifiable proceeding, which threatened a diſſolution of all faith amongſt nations. This produced a ſtrong memorial from Sir Benjamin Keene, our miniſter at that court, importing, "That it was well known that the French fleet carried troops, ammunition, and every thing neceſſary for defending the coun-

The French make another unſucceſsful attempt upon the court of Spain.

tries

tries which the French had unjuſtly uſurped in America, and of which the Engliſh claimed the property. That the rules of ſelf-defence authoriſe every nation to render fruitleſs any attempt that may tend to its prejudice: that this right had been made uſe of only in taking the two French ſhips of war; and that the diſtinction of place might be interpreted in favour of the Engliſh, ſeeing the two ſhips were taken on the coaſts of the countries where the conteſt aroſe." In anſwer to this obſervation, the French miniſter repreſented the vaſt number of ſhips that had been taken in the European ſeas; for in fact the Engliſh ports ſoon began to be filled with them, in conſequence of the general orders for making repriſals. But the court of Madrid was ſo far from being miſled by any thing he could ſay, that it gave his Britannic majeſty the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of its friendſhip, and of its intention to take no part in the differences between him and France, but ſuch as ſhould be reconciliatory, and tending to reſtore the public tranquillity. An. 1755.

On the other hand, his Britannic majeſty required, as king of Great Britain, the auxiliaries ſtipulated to him by treaty from the empreſs queen. But theſe were flatly refuſed, under pretence that as the conteſt between him and France related to America only, it was not a caſe of the alliance; though at the ſame time the French made no ſcruple of owning, that they intended to make a powerful deſcent on Great Britain early in the ſpring. What is more, when, a little while after, France being employed in making great preparations for a land war in Europe, the king of England required her to defend her own poſſeſſions, the Barrier in the Low Countries, with

The Imperial court refuſes auxiliaries to England.

Ingratitude of that court.

An. 1755. with the number of men ſtipulated by treaty, which countries, acquired by Engliſh blood and Engliſh treaſure, had been given to her on that expreſs condition; ſhe refuſed to do it, ſaying, that ſhe could not ſpare troops for that purpoſe on account of her dangerous enemy the king of Pruſſia: and afterwards, when he was ſecured by his treaty with England, ſhe urged that as a pretence for her unnatural alliance with France.

Policy of the French in refraining from open hoſtilities.

Though the Engliſh continued to make repriſals upon the French, not only in the ſeas of America, but alſo in thoſe of Europe, by taking every ſhip they could meet with, and detaining them, their cargoes, and crews; yet the French, whether from a conſciouſneſs of their want of power by ſea, or that they might have a more plauſible plea to repreſent England as the aggreſſor, were ſo far from returning theſe hoſtilities, that their fleet, which eſcaped Sir Edward Hawke, having, on the thirteenth of Auguſt, taken the Blandford man of war, with governor Littleton on board, going to Carolina, they ſet the governor at liberty, as ſoon as the court was informed of the ſhip's being brought into Nantes, and ſhortly after releaſed both the ſhip and crew. However, at the ſame time, their preparations for a land war ſtill went on with great diligence, and their utmoſt arts and efforts were fruitleſly exerted to purſuade the Spaniards and Dutch to join with them againſt Great Britain. In England the preparations by ſea became greater than ever; ſeveral new ſhips of war were put in commiſſion, and many others taken into the ſervice of the government: the exportation of gunpowder was forbid: the bounties to ſeamen were continued; and the number of thoſe that

They take the Blandford man of war; but return it.

either

either entered voluntarily, or were preſſed, increaſed daily, as did alſo the captures from the French, among which was their ſhip the Eſperance, of ſeventy guns, taken as ſhe was going from Rochfort to Breſt to be manned. The land-forces of Great Britain were likewiſe ordered to be augmented; ſeveral new regiments were raiſed; and all half-pay officers, and the out-penſioners belonging to Chelſea hoſpital, were directed to ſend in their names, ages, and time of ſervice, in order that ſuch of them as were yet able to ſerve might be employed again, if wanted. An. 1755.

The Engliſh navy, ſo early as in the month of September of this year, conſiſted of one ſhip of an hundred and ten guns, five of an hundred guns each, thirteen of ninety, eight of eighty, five of ſeventy-four, twenty-nine of ſeventy, four of ſixty-ſix, one of ſixty-four, thirty-three of ſixty, three of fifty-four, twenty-eight of fifty, four of forty-four, thirty-five of forty, and forty-two of twenty, four ſloops of war of eighteen guns each, two of ſixteen, eleven of fourteen, thirteen of twelve, and one of ten, beſides a great number of bomb-ketches, fireſhips, and tenders; a force ſufficient to oppoſe the united maritime ſtrength of all the powers in Europe; whilſt that of the French, even at the end of this year, and including the ſhips then upon the ſtocks, amounted to no more than ſix ſhips of eighty guns, twenty-one of ſeventy-four, one of ſeventy-two, four of ſeventy, thirty-one of ſixty-four, two of ſixty, ſix of fifty, and thirty-two frigates. State of the Engliſh and French navies.

Such was the ſituation of the two kingdoms, when on the thirteenth of November the parliament met, Meeting of the parliament.

An. 1755. met, and his majeſty opened the ſeſſion with a ſpeech from the throne, in which he acquainted them,

His majeſty's ſpeech. "That the moſt proper meaſures had been taken to protect our poſſeſſions in America, and to regain ſuch parts thereof as had been incroached upon, or invaded; that to preſerve his people from the calamities of war, as well as to prevent a general war from being lighted up in Europe, he had been always ready to accept reaſonable and honourable terms of accommodation; but that none ſuch had been propoſed by France: that he had alſo confined his views and operations to hinder France from making new encroachments, or ſupporting thoſe already made: to exert his people's right to a ſatisfaction for hoſtilities committed in a time of profound peace; and to diſappoint ſuch deſigns, as, from various appearances and preparations, there was reaſon to think had been formed againſt his kingdoms and dominions: that the king of Spain earneſtly wiſhed the preſervation of the public tranquility, and had given aſſurances of his intention to continue in the ſame pacific ſentiments; that he himſelf had greatly increaſed his naval armaments, and augmented his land-forces in ſuch a manner as might be leaſt burthenſome; and finally, that he had concluded a treaty with the empreſs of Ruſſia, and another with the landgrave of Heſſe-Caſſel, which ſhould be laid before them."

Remarkable addreſſes of the lords and commons. In anſwer to this ſpeech, both houſes voted moſt loyal addreſſes, but not without a warm oppoſition in each, to ſome of the particular expreſſions; for it having been propoſed in the houſe of lords to inſert in their addreſs the words following, viz. "That they looked upon themſelves as obliged,

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by the ſtrongeſt ties of duty, gratitude, and honour, to ſtand by and ſupport his majeſty in all ſuch wiſe and neceſſary meaſures and engagements, as his majeſty might have taken in vindication of the rights of his crown, or to defeat any attempts which might be made by France, in reſentment for ſuch meaſures; and to aſſiſt his majeſty in diſappointing or repelling all ſuch enterprizes as might be formed, not only againſt his kingdoms, but alſo againſt any other of his dominions, "though not belonging to the crown of Great Britain," in caſe they ſhould be attacked on account of the part which his majeſty had taken for maintaining the eſſential intereſts of his kingdoms." The inſerting of theſe words in their addreſs was oppoſed by the earl Temple, and ſeveral other lords; becauſe by the firſt part of them they engaged to approve of the treaties with Ruſſia and Heſſe Caſſel, neither of which they had ever ſeen, nor could it be ſuppoſed that either of them could be of any advantage to this nation; and by the ſecond part of theſe words it ſeemed to be reſolved, to engage this nation in a continental connection for the defence of Hanover, which it was impoſſible for England to ſupport, and which would be ſo far from being of any advantage to it at ſea, or in America, that it might at laſt diſable the nation from defending itſelf in either of thoſe parts of the world. But upon putting the queſtion, the inſerting of theſe words was agreed to by a great majority, and accordingly they ſtand as part of the addreſs of the houſe upon that occaſion. An. 1755.

To this remarkable addreſs his majeſty returned the following as remarkable anſwer: "My lords, I give His majeſty's anſwer.

An. 1755. I give you my hearty thanks for this dutiful and affectionate addreſs. I ſee, with the greateſt ſatisfaction, the zeal you expreſs for my perſon and government, and for the true intereſt of your country, which I am determined to adhere to. The aſſurances which you give me for the defence of my territories abroad, are a ſtrong proof of your affection for me, and regard for my honour. Nothing ſhall divert me from purſuing thoſe meaſures which will effectually maintain the poſſeſſions and rights of my kingdoms, and procure reaſonable and honourable terms of accommodation."

The addreſs of the houſe of commons breathed the ſame ſpirit of zeal and gratitude, and was full of the warmeſt aſſurances of a ready ſupport of his majeſty, and of his foreign dominions, if attacked in reſentment of his maintaining the rights of his crown and kingdom; and his majeſty's anſwer to it was to the ſame effect as that to the houſe of lords. The ſame, or nearly the ſame words, relating to the treaties concluded by his majeſty, and to the defence of his foreign dominions, were propoſed to be inſerted in this addreſs, which was oppoſed by William Pitt, Eſq; then paymaſter of his majeſty's forces; the right honourable Henry Legge, Eſq; then chancellor and under-treaſurer of his majeſty's exchequer, and one of the commiſſioners of the treaſury; and by ſeveral other gentlemen in high poſts under the government, as well as by many others: but, upon putting the queſtion, it was by a conſiderable majority agreed to inſert the words objected to; and very ſoon after, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Legge, and moſt, if not all of the gentlemen who had appeared in the oppoſition,

were

The Right Hon.ble HENRY FOX Esq.r

were diſmiſſed from their employments. In the mean time, a draught came over from Ruſſia for part of the new ſubſidy ſtipulated to that crown; but ſome of the miniſtry, who were then at the head of the finances, refuſed to pay it, at leaſt till the treaty ſhould be approved of by parliament. An. 1755.

Sir Thomas Robinſon had not been long in poſſeſſion of the office of ſecretary of ſtate, before it was generally perceived, that, though an honeſt well-meaning man, and a favourite with the king, his abilities were not equal to the functions of that poſt. Much leſs were they ſo at this juncture, when the nation was on the point of being engaged in a difficult and expenſive war, and plunged into foreign meaſures and connections, which would require the utmoſt ſkill of an able politician to render them palatable to the people. Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox, though they ſcarce ever agreed in any other thing, had generally united in oppoſing his meaſures; and their ſuperior influence in the houſe of commons, and univerſally acknowledged abilities, tho' of very different kinds, had always prevailed; uncommon as it was, to ſee two perſons who held conſiderable places under the government, one of them being paymaſter-general, and the other ſecretary at war, oppoſe, upon almoſt every occaſion, a ſecretary of ſtate, who was ſuppoſed to know and ſpeak the ſentiments of his maſter. Sir Thomas himſelf ſoon grew ſenſible of his want of ſufficient weight in the ſenate of the nation; and therefore, of his own accord, on the tenth of November, wiſely and dutifully reſigned the ſeals of his office to his majeſty, who delivered them to Mr. Fox, and appointed Sir Thomas maſter of

Alterations in the miniſtry.

Mr. Fox made ſecretary of ſtate.

An. 1755. of the wardrobe, with a penſion to him during his life, and after his death to his ſons. Lord Barrington ſucceeded Mr. Fox as ſecretary at war; and ſoon after Sir George Lyttelton was made chancellor of the exchequer, and a lord of the treaſury, in the room of Mr. Legge, who had declared himſelf againſt the new continental ſyſtem. However, notwithſtanding even theſe changes in the miniſtry, very warm debates aroſe in both houſes, when the treaties of Ruſſia and Heſſe Caſſel came to be conſidered by them: ſome of the members were for referring them to a committee; but this motion was over-ruled, in conſideration of his majeſty's having engaged in them to guard againſt a ſtorm that ſeemed ready to break upon his electoral dominions, merely on account of our quarrel with the French. They were at length approved of by a majority of three hundred and eighteen, againſt one hundred and twenty-ſix, in the houſe of commons; and by eighty-four againſt eleven, in the houſe of lords.

The treaties with Ruſſia and Heſſe Caſſel confirmed by the parliament.

The houſe of commons then proceeded to provide for the ſervice of the enſuing year, and for the deficiencies of the proviſions for the former. Fifty thouſand ſeamen, including nine thouſand one hundred and thirty-eight marines, were voted on the twenty-fourth of November, for the ſervice of the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſix, together with two millions ſix hundred thouſand pounds for their maintenance; and thirty-four thouſand two hundred and ſixty-three land-ſoldiers, with nine hundred and thirty thouſand ſix hundred and three pounds ſix ſhillings and nine pence for their ſupport. An hundred thou-

Seamen, troops, ſubſidies, and ſupplies voted.

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ſand pounds were voted as a ſubſidy to the empreſs of Ruſſia; fifty-four thouſand one hundred and forty pounds twelve ſhillings and ſix pence, were voted to the landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel; and ten thouſand pounds to the elector of Bavaria. An. 1755.

While the national buſineſs was thus going on, not only the public of Great Britain, but the whole world, was thrown into the deepeſt conſternation by a dreadful earthquake, which, on the firſt of November, ſhook all Spain and Portugal, and many other places in Europe, and laid the city of Liſbon in ruins. When the news of this great calamity firſt reached England, it was feared leſt the conſequences of it might affect our public credit, conſidering the vaſt intereſt which the Engliſh merchants had in the Portugueſe trade: but, fortunately, it afterwards proved inconſiderable, in compariſon of what had been apprehended; the quarter in which the Engliſh chiefly lived, and where they had their warehouſes, having ſuffered the leaſt of any part of the city; and moſt of the Engliſh merchants then reſiding there, together with their families, being at their country houſes, to avoid the inſults to which they might have been expoſed from the Portugueſe populace, during the celebration of their Auto da fe, which was kept that very day. The two firſt ſhocks of this dreadful viſitation continued near a quarter of an hour, after which the water of the river Tagus roſe perpendicularly above twenty feet, and ſubſided to its natural bed in leſs than a minute. Great numbers of houſes, of which this city then contained about thirty-ſix thouſand, extending in length near ſix miles, in form of a creſcent, on Earthquake at Liſbon.

An. 1755. the aſcent of a hill upon the north ſhore of the mouth of the river Tagus, within nine miles from the ocean, were thrown down by the repeated commotions of the earth, together with ſeveral magnificent churches, monaſteries, and public buildings. But what entirely completed the ruin of this then moſt opulent capital of the Portugueſe dominions, was a devouring conflagration, partly fortuitous or natural, but chiefly occaſioned by a ſet of impious villains, who, unawed by the tremendous ſcene at that very inſtant paſſing before their eyes, with a wickedneſs ſcarcely to be credited, ſet fire even to the falling edifices in different parts of the city, to increaſe the general confuſion, that they might have the better opportunity to rob and plunder their already deſolated fellow-citizens. Out of three hundred and fifty thouſand inhabitants, which Lisbon was then ſuppoſed to contain, about ten thouſand periſhed by this calamity; and the ſurvivors, deprived of their habitations, and deſtitute even of the neceſſaries of life, were forced to ſeek for ſhelter in the open fields.

As ſoon as his majeſty received an account of this deplorable event, from his ambaſſador at the court of Madrid, he ſent a meſſage to both houſes of parliament, on the twenty-eighth of November, acquainting them therewith, and deſiring their concurrence and aſſiſtance towards ſpeedily relieving the unhappy ſufferers; and the parliament thereupon, to the honour of Britiſh humanity, unanimouſly voted, on the eighth of December, a gift of an hundred thouſand pounds for the diſtreſſed people of Portugal. A circumſtance which enhances the merit of this action is, that though the

Relief voted by the parliament to the Portugueſe.

Engliſh themſelves were, at that very time, in great want of grain, a conſiderable part of the ſum was ſent in corn, flour, rice, and a large quantity of beef from Ireland: ſupplies which came very ſeaſonably for the poor Portugueſe, who were in actual want of the neceſſaries of life. Their king was ſo affected by this inſtance of Britiſh generoſity, that, to ſhew his gratitude for the timely relief, he ordered Mr. Caſtres, the Britiſh reſident at his court, to give the preference in the diſtribution of theſe ſupplies to the Britiſh ſubjects who had ſuffered by the earthquake: accordingly about a thirtieth part of the proviſions, and two thouſand pounds in money, were ſet apart for that purpoſe; and his Portugueſe majeſty returned his thanks, in very warm terms, to the Britiſh crown and nation. An. 1755.

Troops, ſupplies, &c. voted by parliament.

The report of an intended invaſion of theſe kingdoms by the French increaſing daily, on the twenty-ſecond day of January the lord Barrington, as ſecretary at war, laid before the houſe an eſtimate for defraying the charge of ten new regiments of foot, over and above the thirty-four thouſand two hundred and ſixty-three land-ſoldiers before ordered to be raiſed; and a ſum of ninety-one thouſand nine hundred and nineteen pounds ten ſhillings, was voted for theſe additional forces: upon another eſtimate, preſented a little after by the ſame lord, and founded upon the ſame reaſons, for raiſing, for the farther defence of the kingdom, eleven troops of light dragoons, forty-nine thouſand ſix hundred and twenty-eight pounds eleven ſhillings and three pence, were voted for the enſuing year; together with eighty-one thouſand one hundred and ſeventy-eight pounds ſixteen ſhillings, for a regiment of

An. 1755. foot to be raiſed in North America; two hundred and ninety-eight thouſand five hundred and thirty-four pounds ſeventeen ſhillings and ten pence half-penny, for the maintenance of our forces already eſtabliſhed in our American colonies; and ſeventy-nine thouſand nine hundred and fifteen pounds ſix ſhillings, for ſix regiments of foot from Ireland, to ſerve in North America and the Eaſt Indies. Beſides all theſe ſupplies, Mr. Fox, on the twenty-eighth of January, preſented to the houſe a meſſage from the king, deſiring them to take into conſideration the faithful ſervices of the people of New England, and of ſome other parts of North America; upon which an hundred and fifteen thouſand pounds more were voted, and five thouſand as a reward to Sir William Johnſon in particular. In ſhort, including ſeveral other ſums, as well for defraying the expence of the army and navy, as for a ſubſidy of twenty thouſand pounds to the king of Pruſſia, and an hundred and twenty-one thouſand four hundred and forty-ſeven pounds two ſhillings and ſix pence for Hanoverian troops, of which two laſt articles farther notice will be taken hereafter; the whole of the ſupplies granted by parliament, in this ſeſſion, amounted to ſeven millions two hundred and twenty-nine thouſand one hundred and ſeventeen pounds four ſhillings and ſix pence three farthings: for raiſing this ſum, beſides the malt-tax, and the land-tax of four ſhillings in the pound, the whole produce of the ſinking-fund, from the fifth of January one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſix, until it ſhould amount to one million five hundred and fifty-five thouſand nine hundred and fifty-five pounds eleven

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ſhillings and eleven pence half-penny, was ordered to be applied thereunto; together with a million, to be raiſed by loans, or exchequer-bills, at three per centum intereſt; one million five hundred thouſand pounds to be raiſed by the ſale of redeemable annuities, at three and a half per centum; and five hundred thouſand pounds to be raiſed by a lottery, at three per centum: all which ſums, with eighty-three thouſand four hundred and twelve pounds two ſhillings and five pence half-penny, then remaining in the Exchequer, amounted to ſeven millions four hundred and twenty-ſeven thouſand two hundred and ſixty-one pounds five ſhillings and ſeven pence. An. 1755.

The clauſe inſerted in the mutiny-bill laſt year, ſubjecting all officers and ſoldiers raiſed in America, by authority of the reſpective governors or governments there, to the ſame rules and articles of war, and the ſame penalties and puniſhments, as the Britiſh forces were liable to; the act paſſed at the ſame time for regulating the marine-forces, while on ſhore; and that for the more ſpeedy and effectual manning of his majeſty's navy; were not only confirmed now, but it was farther enacted, with reſpect to this laſt, as well as for the more ſpeedy and effectual recruiting of his majeſty's land-forces, That the commiſſioners appointed by the preſent act ſhould be impowered to raiſe and levy, within their reſpective juriſdictions, ſuch able-bodied men as did not follow any lawful calling or employment, or had not ſome other lawful and ſufficient ſupport; and might order, wherever and whenever they pleaſed, a general ſearch to be made for ſuch perſons, in order to their being brought before Mutiny-bill, marine, and mariners acts continued.

An. 1755. New act for recruiting the army and navy.

before them to be examined; nay, that the pariſh or town officers might, without any ſuch order, ſearch for and ſecure ſuch perſons, in order to convey them before the ſaid commiſſioners to be examined: That if any three commiſſioners ſhould find any perſon, ſo brought before them, to be within the above deſcription; and if the recruiting officer attending ſhould judge him to be a man fit for his majeſty's ſervice, they ſhould cauſe him to be delivered to ſuch officer, who might ſecure him in any place of ſafety provided by the juſtices of peace for that purpoſe, or even in any public priſon; and that every ſuch man was from that time to be deemed a liſted ſoldier, and not to be taken out of his majeſty's ſervice by any proceſs, other than for ſome criminal matter.

Nothing could more plainly ſhew either the zeal of the parliament for a vigorous proſecution of the war, or their confidence in the juſtice and moderation of our miniſtry, than their agreeing to this act, which was to continue in force till the end of the next ſeſſion; and which, in the hands of a wicked and enterpriſing adminiſtration, might have been made ſuch an uſe of, as would have been inconſiſtent with that ſecurity which is provided by our happy conſtitution for the liberty of the ſubject.

Act for raiſing a regiment of foot in North America.

The next object of the immediate attention of the parliament, in this ſeſſion, was the raiſing of a new regiment of foot in North America; for which purpoſe the ſum of eighty-one thouſand one hundred and ſeventy-eight pounds ſixteen ſhillings, to which the eſtimate thereof amounted, was voted. This regiment, which was to conſiſt of

of four battalions of a thouſand men each, was intended to be raiſed chiefly out of the Germans and Swiſs, who, for many years paſt, had annually tranſported themſelves in great numbers to the Britiſh plantations in America, where waſte lands had been aſſigned them upon the frontiers of the provinces; but, very injudiciouſly; no care had been taken to intermix them with the Engliſh inhabitants of the place. To this circumſtance it is owing, that they have continued to correſpond and converſe only with one another; ſo that very few of them, even of thoſe who have been born there, have yet learnt to ſpeak or underſtand the Engliſh tongue. However, as they are all zealous proteſtants, and in general ſtrong, hardy men, and accuſtomed to the climate, it was judged that a regiment of good and faithful ſoldiers might be raiſed out of them, particularly proper to oppoſe the French: but to this end it was neceſſary to appoint ſome officers, eſpecially ſubalterns, who underſtood military diſcipline, and could ſpeak the German language; and as a ſufficient number of ſuch could not be found among the Engliſh officers, it was neceſſary to bring over and to grant commiſſions to ſeveral German and Swiſs officers and engineers: but as this ſtep, by the act of ſettlement, could not be taken without the authority of parliament, an act was now paſſed for enabling his majeſty to grant commiſſions to a certain number of foreign proteſtants, who had ſerved abroad as officers, or engineers, to act and rank as officers, or engineers, in America only. An. 1755.

An act was likewiſe paſſed in this ſeſſion, ſtrictly forbidding, under pain of death, any of his majeſty's

An. 1755. jeſty's ſubjects to ſerve as officers under the French king, or to inliſt as ſoldiers in his ſervice, without his majeſty's previous licence; and alſo for obliging ſuch of his majeſty's ſubjects as ſhould, in time to come, accept of commiſſions in the Scotch brigade in the Dutch ſervice, to take the oaths of allegiance and abjuration, on pain of forfeiture of five hundred pounds.

Act for preventing his majeſty's ſubjects inliſting into foreign ſervice.

As it had been reſolved, in the beginning of the preceding ſummer, to build veſſels of force upon the lake Ontario, an act was now paſſed for extending the maritime laws of England, relating to the government of his majeſty's ſhips and forces by ſea, to ſuch officers, ſeamen, and others, as ſhould ſerve on board his majeſty's ſhips or veſſels employed upon the lakes, great waters, or rivers, in North America: and alſo, but not without oppoſition to this laſt, for the better recruiting of his majeſty's forces upon the continent of America; to which end, by a new clauſe now added to a former act, a recruiting officer was impowered to inliſt and detain an indented ſervant, even though his maſter ſhould reclaim him, upon paying to the maſter ſuch a ſum as two juſtices of peace within the precinct ſhould adjudge to be a reaſonable equivalent for the original purchaſe-money, and the remaining time ſuch ſervant might have to ſerve.

The maritime laws of England extended to America.

The inteſtine broils of Ireland were happily compoſed this year, by the prudent management of the marquis of Hartington, lord lieutenant of that kingdom. By his ſteady and diſintereſted conduct, his candour and humanity, the Iriſh were not only brought to a much better temper, even among themſelves, than they were before their late

The quiet of Ireland reſtored.

late outrageous riots and dangerous diſſentions happened; but alſo prevailed upon to acquieſce in the meaſures of England, without this laſt being obliged to give up any one point of her ſuperiority. The leading men in the parliament of Ireland were the firſt that conformed: and though the ferment continued very high for ſome time after, among the middling and lower ranks of people, it was at length intirely allayed by the wiſdom of the lord lieutenant, and the excellent laws which he encouraged and paſſed for the benefit of that nation. The P —— of Ireland, who had been very buſy in fomenting many of the late diſturbances, was, by his majeſty's command, ſtruck off the liſt of privy counſellors; and the greateſt part of thoſe patriots, whom faction had turned out of their employments there, were reinſtated with honour. An. 1755.

Among other objects of the attention of the legiſlature of that country, ten thouſand pounds were granted for making the river Nore navigable from the city of Kilkenny to the town of Inneſtalge; twenty thouſand pounds towards carrying on an inland navigation from the city of Dublin to the river Shannon; four thouſand pounds for making the river Newry navigable; a thouſand pounds a year for two years, for the encouragement of Engliſh proteſtant ſchools; ſeveral ſums, to be diſtributed in premiums, for the encouragement of the cambrick, hempen, and flaxen manufactures; and three hundred thouſand pounds to his majeſty, towards ſupporting the ſeveral branches of the eſtabliſhment, and for defraying the expences of the government for two years.

The

An. 1756. Continuation of the ſeſſion of parliament.

The parliament of England, which had adjourned on the twenty-third of December, met again; the houſe of commons on the thirteenth of January, and the lords on the nineteenth. In the mean time, that is to ſay, on the ſixteenth of the ſame month, the treaty between his Britannic majeſty and the king of Pruſſia was ſigned, importing, That, for the defence of their common country, Germany, and in order to preſerve her peace and tranquillity, which, it was fea ed, was in danger of being diſturbed, on account of the diſputes in America; the two kings, for that end only, entered into a convention of neutrality, by which they reciprocally bound themſelves not to ſuffer foreign troops of any nation whatſoever to enter into Germany, or paſs through it, during the troubles aforeſaid, and the conſequences that might reſult from them; but to oppoſe the ſame with their utmoſt might, in order to ſecure Germany from the calamities of war, maintain her fundamental laws and conſtitutions, and preſerve her peace uninterrupted. Their majeſties, moreover, ſeized this favourable opportunity to adjuſt the differences that had ſubſiſted between them, in relation to the remainder of the Sileſia loan due to the ſubjects of his Britannic majeſty, and the indemnification claimed by the ſubjects of his Pruſſian majeſty for their loſſes by ſea during the late war; ſo that the attachment laid on the ſaid debt was agreed to be taken off, as ſoon as the ratification of this treaty ſhould be exchanged.

Treaty with Pruſſia.

A new militia-bill ordered,

On the twenty-firſt of January the houſe took into conſideration the laws then in being, relating to the militia of this kingdom; and, finding them in-

The Honourable *CHARLES TOWNSHEND.*

inſufficient, ordered a new bill to be prepared, and brought in, for the better regulating of the militia forces in the ſeveral counties of England. A bill was accordingly prepared to that effect, much the ſame as that which has been ſince paſſed into a law, and preſented to the houſe on the twelfth of March by the honourable Charles Townſhend, Eſq; who, to his honour, was one of the chief promoters of it; and, after receiving many amendments in the houſe of commons, it was on the tenth of May paſſed, and ſent to the lords: but ſeveral objections being made to it by ſome of the peers, and it ſeeming to them, as they ſaid, that ſome farther amendments were ſtill neceſſary, which they thought they could not in that ſeſſion ſpare time to conſider ſo maturely as the importance of the ſubject required, a negative of fifty-nine againſt twenty-three was put upon the motion for paſſing the bill; though every one muſt have been ſenſible not only of the propriety, but even of the abſolute neceſſity of ſuch a law, which was ardently deſired by the whole nation. An. 1756. paſſed by the commons; but rejected by the lords.

On the twenty-ſeventh of May his majeſty went to the houſe of peers, and, after giving the royal aſſent to the bills then depending, thanked his parliament, in a ſpeech from the throne, for the vigorous and effectual ſupport they had given him; and acquainted them, that the injuries and hoſtilities which had been for ſome time committed by the French againſt his dominions and ſubjects, were then followed by the actual invaſion of the iſland of Minorca, though guarantied to him by all the great powers of Europe, and particularly by the French king: That he had therefore found him- End of the ſeſſion.

An. 1756. himſelf obliged, in vindication of the honour of his crown, and of the rights of his people, to declare war in form againſt France; and that he relied on the Divine Protection, and the vigorous aſſiſtance of his faithful ſubjects, in ſo juſt a cauſe. The parliament was then adjourned to the eighteenth of June; from thence afterwards to the eighteenth of July, and then it was prorogued.

Letter from M. Rouillé to the ſecretary of ſtate.

In the month of January Mr. Fox, lately appointed ſecretary of ſtate, received a letter from Mr. Rouillé, miniſter and ſecretary of ſtate for foreign affairs to the king of France, expoſtulating, in the name of his ſovereign, upon the orders and inſtructions for committing hoſtilities, which his Britannic majeſty had given to general Braddock and admiral Boſcawen, in diametrical oppoſition to the moſt ſolemn aſſurances ſo often repeated by word of mouth, as well as in writing. He complained of the inſult which had been offered to his maſter's flag, in attacking and taking two of his ſhips in the open ſea, without any previous declaration of war; as alſo by committing depredations on the commerce of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty's ſubjects, in contempt of the law of nations, the faith of treaties, and the uſages eſtabliſhed among civilized nations. He ſaid, the ſentiments and character of his Britannic majeſty gave the king his maſter room to expect, that, at his return to London, he would diſavow the conduct of his admiralty; but ſeeing that, inſtead of puniſhing, he rather encouraged thoſe who had been guilty of ſuch depredations, his moſt Chriſtian majeſty would be deemed deficient in what he owed to his own glory, the dignity of his crown, and

and the defence of his people, if he deferred any longer demanding a ſignal reparation for the outrage done to the French flag, and the damage ſuſtained by his ſubjects. He therefore demanded immediate and full reſtitution of all the French ſhips, which, contrary to law and decorum, had been taken by the Engliſh navy, together with all the officers, ſoldiers, mariners, guns, ſtores, and merchandize. He declared, that ſhould this reſtitution be made, he ſhould be willing to engage in a negotiation for what further ſatisfaction he might claim, and continue deſirous to ſee the differences relating to America determined by a ſolid and equitable accommodation: but if, contrary to all hopes, theſe demands ſhould be rejected, he would conſider ſuch a denial of juſtice as the moſt authentic declaration of war, and as a formed deſign in the court of London to diſturb the peace of Europe. An. 1756.

To this peremptory remonſtrance the Britiſh ſecretary was directed to anſwer, That though the king of England would readily conſent to an equitable and ſolid accommodation, he would not comply with the demand of immediate and full reſtitution as a preliminary condition; for his majeſty had taken no ſteps but ſuch as were rendered juſt and indiſpenſible by the hoſtilities which the French began in time of profound peace, and a proper regard for his own honour, the rights and poſſeſſions of his crown, and the ſecurity of his kingdoms.

Without all doubt the late tranſactions had afforded ſpecious arguments for both nations to impeach the conduct of each other. The French

An. 1756. court, conſcious of their incroachments in Nova Scotia, affected to draw a ſhade over theſe, as particulars belonging to a diſputed territory, and to divert the attention to the banks of the Ohio, where Jamonville and his detachment had been attacked and maſſacred by the Engliſh, without the leaſt provocation. They likewiſe inveighed againſt the capture of their ſhips, before any declaration of war, as flagrant acts of piracy; and ſome neutral powers of Europe ſeemed to conſider them in the ſame point of view.

The two nations recriminate upon each other.

It was certainly high time to check the inſolence of the French by force of arms, and ſurely this might have been as effectually and expeditiouſly exerted under the uſual ſanction of a formal declaration; the omiſſion of which expoſed the adminiſtration to the cenſure of our neighbours, and fixed the imputation of fraud and free-booting on the beginning of the war. The miniſtry was ſaid to have delayed the ceremony of denouncing war from political conſiderations, ſuppoſing that, ſhould the French be provoked into the firſt declaration of this kind, the powers of Europe would conſider his moſt Chriſtian majeſty as the aggreſſor, and Great Britain would reap all the fruits of the defenſive alliances in which ſhe had engaged. But nothing could be more weak and frivolous than ſuch a conjecture; the aggreſſor is he who firſt violates the peace; and every ally will interpret the aggreſſion according to his own intereſt and convenience. The adminiſtration maintained the appearance of candour in the midſt of their hoſtilities. The merchant-ſhips, of which a great number had been taken from the French, were not ſold

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and divided among the captors, according to the practice of war; but carefully ſequeſtered, with all their cargoes and effects, in order to be reſtored to the right owners, in caſe the diſputes between the two nations ſhould not be productive of an open rupture. In this particular, however, it was pity that a little common ſenſe had not been blended with their honourable intention. Great part of the cargoes conſiſted of fiſh, and other periſhable commodities, which were left to rot and putrefy, and afterwards thrown overboard to prevent contagion; ſo that the owners and captors were equally diſappointed, and the value of them loſt to both nations. An. 1756.

The court of Verſailles, while they preſented remonſtrances which they knew would prove ineffectual, and exclaimed againſt the conduct of Great Britain with all the arts of calumny and exaggeration at every court in Chriſtendom, continued nevertheleſs to make ſuch preparations as denoted a deſign to proſecute the war with uncommon vigour. They began to repair and fortify Dunkirk: orders were publiſhed, that all Britiſh ſubjects ſhould quit the dominions of France: many Engliſh veſſels were ſeized in different ports of that kingdom, and their crews ſent to priſon. At the ſame time an edict was iſſued, inviting the French ſubjects to equip privateers, offering a premium of forty livres for every gun, and as much for every man they ſhould take from the enemy; and promiſing that, in caſe a peace ſhould be ſpeedily concluded, the king would purchaſe the privateers at prime coſt. They employed great numbers of artificers and ſeamen in equipping a formidable ſquadron of ſhips

The French threaten Great Britain with an invaſion.

An. 1756. at Breſt; and, aſſembling a ſtrong body of land-forces, as well as a conſiderable number of tranſports, threatened the iſland of Great Britain with a dangerous invaſion.

The Engliſh people were ſeized with conſternation: the miniſtry were alarmed and perplexed. Colonel Yorke, the Britiſh reſident at the Hague, was ordered by his majeſty to make a requiſition of the ſix thouſand men whom the States General are obliged by treaty to furniſh, when Great Britain ſhall be threatened with an invaſion; and in February he preſented a memorial for this purpoſe. Monſieur d'Affry, the French king's miniſter at the Hague, having received intimation of this demand, produced a counter memorial from his maſter, charging the Engliſh as the aggreſſors, and giving the States General plainly to underſtand, that ſhould they grant the ſuccours demanded by Great Britain, he would conſider their compliance as an act of hoſtility againſt himſelf. The Dutch, though divided among themſelves by faction, were unanimouſly averſe to any meaſure that might involve them in the approaching war. Their commerce was in a great meaſure decayed, and their finances were too much exhauſted to admit of an immediate augmentation of their forces, which for many other reaſons they ſtrove to avoid. They foreſaw a great increaſe of trade in their adhering to a punctual neutrality: they were afraid of the French by land, and jealous of the Engliſh by ſea; and perhaps enjoyed the proſpect of ſeeing theſe two proud and powerful nations humble and impoveriſh each other. Certain it is, the States General protracted their anſwer to Mr. Yorke's memo-

Requiſition of ſix thouſand Dutch troops according to treaty.

memorial by ſuch affected delays, that the court of London perceived their intention, and in order to avoid the mortification of a flat denial, the king ordered his reſident to acquaint the princeſs regent, that he would not inſiſt upon his demand. The States, thus freed from their perplexity, at length delivered an anſwer to Mr. Yorke, in which they expatiated on the difficulties they were laid under, and thanked his Britannic majeſty for having freed them by his declaration from that embarraſſment into which they were thrown by his firſt demand and the counter memorial of the French miniſter. The real ſentiments of thoſe people, however, more plainly appeared in the previous reſolution delivered to the ſtates of Holland by the towns of Amſterdam, Dort, Haerlem, Gouda, Rotterdam, and Enckhuyſen, declaring flatly that England was uncontrovertibly the aggreſſor in Europe, by ſeizing a conſiderable number of French veſſels; that the threatened invaſion of Great Britain did not affect the republic's guarantee of the proteſtant ſucceſſion, inaſmuch as it was only intended to obtain reparation for the injury ſuſtained by the ſubjects of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty; finally, that the ſuccours demanded could be of no advantage to the king of England, as it appeared by the declaration of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, that their granting theſe ſuccours would immediately lay them under a neceſſity of demanding, in their turn, aſſiſtance from Great Britain. From this way of arguing, the Engliſh may perceive what they have to expect in caſes of emergency from the friendſhip of their neareſt allies, who muſt always be furniſhed with the ſame excuſe whenever they find it convenient An. 1756.

An. 1756. or neceſſary to their own intereſt. Such a conſideration, joined to other concurring motives, ought to induce the Britiſh legiſlature to withdraw its dependence from all foreign connexions, and provide ſuch a conſtitutional force within itſelf, as will be fully ſufficient to baffle all the efforts of an external enemy. The apprehenſions and diſtraction of the people at this juncture plainly evinced the expediency of ſuch a national force: but different parties were divided in their opinions about the nature of ſuch a proviſion. Some of the warmeſt friends of their country propoſed a well-regulated militia, as an inſtitution that would effectually anſwer the purpoſe of defending a wide extended ſea-coaſt from invaſion; while on the other hand, this propoſal was ridiculed and refuted as impracticable or uſeleſs by all the retainers to the court, and all the officers of the ſtanding army. In the mean time, as the experiment could not be immediately tried, and the preſent juncture demanded ſome inſtant determination, recourſe was had to a foreign remedy.

Meſſage from the king to the parliament.

Towards the latter end of March, the king ſent a written meſſage to parliament, intimating he had received repeated advices from different perſons and places, that a deſign had been formed by the French court to invade Great Britain or Ireland; and the great preparations of forces, ſhips, artillery, and warlike ſtores, then notoriouſly making in the ports of France oppoſite to the Britiſh coaſts, together with the language of the French miniſters in ſome foreign courts, left little room to doubt the reality of ſuch a deſign: that his majeſty had augmented his forces both by ſea and land, and taken proper meaſures and precautions

for

for putting his kingdom in a poſture of defence: that, in order further to ſtrengthen himſelf, he had made a requiſition of a body of Heſſian troops, purſuant to the late treaty, to be forthwith brought over, and for that purpoſe ordered tranſports to be prepared: that he doubted not of being enabled and ſupported by his parliament in taking all ſuch meaſures as might be conducive to an end ſo eſſential to the honour of his crown, the preſervation of the proteſtant religion, and the laws and liberties of theſe kingdoms. This meſſage was no ſooner received, than both houſes voted, compoſed, and preſented very warm and affectionate addreſſes, in which his majeſty was thanked for the requiſition he had made of the Heſſian troops; a meaſure which at any other time would have been ſtigmatized with all the ſatire and rhetoric of the oppoſition. An. 1756.

Even this precaution was not thought ſufficient to ſecure the iſland, and quiet the terrors of the people. In a few days Mr. Fox, the new miniſter, encouraged by the unanimity which had appeared ſo conſpicuous in the motions for the late addreſſes, ventured to move again, in the houſe of commons, that another addreſs ſhould be preſented to the king, beſeeching his majeſty, that for the more effectual defence of this iſland, and for the better ſecurity of the religion and liberties of his ſubjects, againſt the threatened attack by a foreign enemy, he would be graciouſly pleaſed to order twelve battalions of his electoral troops, together with the uſual detachment of artillery, to be forthwith brought into this kingdom. There was a conſiderable party in the houſe, to whom ſuch a

An. 1756. motion was odious and deteſtable: but, conſidering the critical ſituation of affairs, they were afraid that a direct oppoſition might expoſe them to a more odious ſuſpicion: they therefore moved for the order of the day, and inſiſted on the queſtion's being put upon that motion; but it was carried in the negative by a conſiderable majority, which alſo agreed to the other propoſal. The reſolution of the houſe was communicated to the lords, who unanimouſly concurred; and their joint addreſs being preſented, his majeſty aſſured them he would immediately comply with their requeſt. Accordingly, ſuch expedition was uſed, that in the courſe of the next month both Hanoverians and Heſſians arrived in England, and encamped in different parts of the kingdom. As the fears of an invaſion ſubſided in the minds of the people, their antipathy to theſe foreign auxiliaries emerged. They were beheld with the eyes of jealouſy, ſuſpicion, and diſdain. They were treated with contempt, reſerve, and rigour. The miniſtry was execrated for having reduced the nation to ſuch a low circumſtance of diſgrace, as that they ſhould owe their ſecurity to German mercenaries. There were not wanting ſome incendiaries who circulated hints and inſinuations, that the kingdom had been purpoſely left unprovided; and that the natives of South Britain had been formerly ſubdued and expelled by a body of Saxon auxiliaries, whom they had hired for their preſervation. In a word, the doubts and ſuſpicions of a people naturally blunt and jealous, were inflamed to ſuch a degree of animoſity, that nothing would have reſtrained them from violent acts of outrage, but the moſt orderly, modeſt, and inoffen-

A body of Hanoverians and Heſſians tranſported to England.

offenſive behaviour by which both the Hanoverians and Heſſians were diſtinguiſhed. An. 1756.

Under the cloak of an invading armament, which engroſſed the attention of the Britiſh nation, the French were actually employed in preparations for an expedition, which ſucceeded according to their wiſh. In the beginning of the year advice was received that a French ſquadron would ſoon be in a condition to ſail from Toulon: this was afterwards confirmed by repeated intelligence not only from foreign gazettes, but alſo from Engliſh miniſters and conſuls reſiding in Spain and Italy. They affirmed that the Toulon ſquadron conſiſted of twelve or fifteen ſhips of the line, with a great number of tranſports; that they were ſupplied with proviſion for two months only, conſequently could not be intended for America; and that ſtrong bodies of troops were on their march from different parts of the French dominions to Dauphiné and Provence, in order to be embarked. Notwithſtanding theſe particulars of information, which plainly pointed out Minorca as the object of their expedition; notwithſtanding the extenſive and important commerce carried on by the ſubjects of Great Britain in the Mediterranean; no care was taken to ſend thither a ſquadron of ſhips capable to protect the trade, and fruſtrate the deſigns of the enemy. That great province was left to a few inconſiderable ſhips and frigates, which could ſerve no other purpoſe than that of carrying intelligence from port to port, and enriching their commanders by making prize of merchant veſſels. Nay, the miniſtry ſeemed to pay little or no regard to the remonſtrance of general Blakeney, deputy

French preparations at Toulon.

An. 1756. puty governor of Minorca, who, in repeated advices, repreſented the weakneſs of the garriſon which he commanded in St. Philip's caſtle, the chief fortreſs on the iſland. Far from ſtrengthening the garriſon with a proper reinforcement, they did not even ſend thither the officers belonging to it, who were in England upon leave of abſence, nor give directions for any veſſel to tranſport them, until the French armament was ready to make a deſcent upon that iſland *.

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* It is with pleaſure we ſeize this opportunity of recording an inſtance of gallantry and patriotiſm in a Britiſh officer, which would have done honour to the character of a Roman tribune. Capt. Cunningham, an accompliſhed young gentleman, who acted as engineer in ſecond at Minorca, being preferred to a majority at home, and recalled to his regiment by an expreſs order, had repaired with his family to Nice in Italy, where he waited for the opportunity of a ſhip bound for England, when he received certain intelligence that the French armament was deſtined for the place he had quitted. His lady, whom he tenderly loved, was juſt delivered, and two of his children were dangerouſly ill of the ſmall pox. He recollected that the chief engineer at Minorca was infirm, and indeed diſabled by the gout, and that many things were wanting for the defence of the fortreſs. His zeal for the honour and ſervice of his country immediately triumphed over the calls of tenderneſs and of nature. He expended a conſiderable ſum of money in purchaſing timber for the platforms, and other neceſſaries for the garriſon; hired a ſhip for tranſporting them thither; and tearing himſelf from his wife and children, thus left among ſtrangers in a foreign country, embarked again for Minorca, where he knew he would be in a peculiar manner expoſed to all the dangers of a furious ſiege. In the courſe of this deſperate ſervice he acquitted himſelf with that vigilance, ſkill, and active courage, which he had on divers former occaſions diſplayed; until the aſſault was given to the Queen's baſtion, when, mixing with the enemy ſword in hand, he was diſabled in his right arm by the ſhot of a muſquet and the thruſt of a bayonet. His behaviour was ſo acceptable to his ſovereign, that when he returned to England he was preferred to the rank of colonel in the guards.

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An. 1756.

At length the deſtination of the enemy's fleet being univerſally known, the miniſtry ſeemed to rouſe from their lethargy, and, like perſons ſuddenly waked, they acted with hurry and precipitation. Inſtead of detaching a ſquadron that in all reſpects ſhould be ſuperior to the French fleet in the Mediterranean, and beſtowing the command of it upon an officer of approved courage and activity, they allotted no more than ten ſhips of the line for this ſervice, veſting the command of them in admiral Byng, who had never met with any occaſion to ſignalize his courage, and whoſe character was not very popular in the navy: but Mr. Weſt, the ſecond in command, was a gentleman univerſally reſpected for his probity, ability, and reſolution. The ten ſhips deſtined for this expedition were but in very indifferent order, poorly manned, and unprovided with either hoſpital or fireſhip. They ſailed from Spithead on the ſeventh day of April, having on board, as part of their complement, a regiment of ſoldiers to be landed at Gibraltar, with major general Stuart, the lord Effingham, and colonel Cornwallis, whoſe regiments were in garriſon at Minorca, about forty inferior officers, and near one hundred recruits, as a reinforcement to St. Philip's fortreſs.

Admiral Byng ſails for the Mediterranean.

After all the intelligence which had been received, one would imagine the government of England was ſtill ignorant of the enemy's force and deſtination; for the inſtructions delivered to

He afterwards acted as chief engineer in the attempts and deſcents that were made on the French coaſt. Though grievouſly maimed, he accepted the ſame office in the expedition to Guadalupe, where he died univerſally regretted.

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An. 1756. admiral Byng imported, that, on his arrival at Gibraltar, he ſhould inquire whether any French ſquadron had paſſed through the Streights; and that, being certified in the affirmative, as it was probably deſigned for North America, he ſhould immediately detach rear-admiral Weſt to Louiſbourg, on the iſland Cape Breton, with ſuch a number of ſhips as, when joined with thoſe at Halifax, would conſtitute a force ſuperior to the armament of the enemy.

His arrival at Gibraltar.

On the ſecond day of May admiral Byng arrived at Gibraltar, where he found captain Edgecumbe with the Princeſs Louiſa ſhip of war, and a ſloop, who informed him, that the French armament, commanded by Mr. de la Galiſſoniere, conſiſting of thirteen ſhips of the line, with a great number of tranſports, having on board a body of fifteen thouſand land-forces, had ſailed from Toulon on the tenth day of April, and made a deſcent upon the iſland of Minorca, from whence he (captain Edgecumbe) had been obliged to retire at their approach.

General Fowke, who commanded at Gibraltar, had received two ſucceſſive orders from the ſecretary at war, with reſpect to his ſparing a battalion of troops, to be tranſported by Mr. Byng, as a reinforcement to Minorca; but as the two orders appeared inconſiſtent, or equivocal, a council of war was conſulted; and the majority were of opinion, that no troops ſhould be ſent from thence to Minorca, except a detachment to ſupply the deficiency in the little ſquadron of captain Edgecumbe, who had left a good number of his ſeamen and mariners, under the command of captain Scroop,

Scroop, to aſſiſt in the defence of Fort St. Philip's. An. 1756.
Theſe articles of intelligence the admiral diſpatched by an expreſs to the lords of the admiralty, and in his letter made uſe of ſome impolitic expreſſions, which, in all probability, it would have been well for him had he omitted. He ſaid, if he had been ſo happy as to have arrived at Mahon before the French had landed, he flattered himſelf he ſhould have been able to prevent their getting a footing on that iſland. He complained, that there were no magazines in Gibraltar for ſupplying the ſquadron with neceſſaries; that the careening-wharfs, pits, and ſtorehouſes, were intirely decayed, ſo that he ſhould find the greateſt difficulty in cleaning the ſhips that were foul; and this was the caſe with ſome of thoſe he carried out from England, as well as with thoſe which had been for ſome time cruiſing in the Mediterranean. He ſignified his opinion, that, even if it ſhould be found practicable, it would be very impolitic to throw any men into St. Philip's caſtle, which could not be ſaved without a land-force ſufficient to raiſe the ſiege; therefore a ſmall reinforcement would only add ſo many men to the number which muſt fall into the hands of the enemy. He obſerved, that ſuch engineers and artillery-men in Gibraltar, as had been at Minorca, were of opinion, that it would be impoſſible to throw any number of men into St. Philip's, if the French had erected batteries on the two ſhores near the entrance of the harbour, ſo as to bar all paſſage up to the ſally-port of the fortreſs; and with this opinion he ſignified the concurrence of his own ſentiments.

The

An. 1756. The firſt part of this letter was a downright impeachment of the miniſtry, for having delayed the expedition, for having ſent out ſhips unfit for ſervice, and for having neglected the magazines and wharfs at Gibraltar. In the latter part he ſeemed to prepare them for the ſubſequent account of his miſconduct and miſcarriage. It cannot be ſuppoſed, that they underwent this accuſation without apprehenſion and reſentment; and as they foreſaw the loſs of Minorca, which would not fail to excite a national clamour, perhaps they now began to take meaſures for gratifying their reſentment, and transferring the blame from themſelves to the perſon who had preſumed to hint a diſapprobation of their conduct: for this purpoſe they could not have found a fairer opportunity than Mr. Byng's ſubſequent behaviour afforded.

This admiral, being ſtrengthened by Mr. Edgecumbe, and reinforced by a detachment from the garriſon, ſet ſail from Gibraltar on the eighth day of May, and was joined off Majorca by his majeſty's ſhip the Phœnix, under the command of captain Hervey, who confirmed the intelligence he had already received, touching the ſtrength and deſtination of the French ſquadron. When he approached Minorca, he deſcried the Britiſh colours ſtill flying at the caſtle of St. Philip's, and ſeveral bomb batteries playing upon it from different quarters, where the French banners were diſplayed. Thus informed, he detached three ſhips a-head, with captain Hervey, ro reconnoitre the harbour's mouth, and land, if poſſible, a letter for general Blakeney, giving him to underſtand the fleet was come to his aſſiſtance. Before this attempt could

be made, the French fleet appearing to the ſouth-eaſt, and the wind blowing ſtrong off ſhore, he recalled the ſhips, and formed the line of battle. About ſix o'clock in the evening the enemy, to the number of ſeventeen ſhips, thirteen of which appeared to be very large, advanced in order; but about ſeven tacked, with a view to gain the weather-gage. Mr. Byng, in order to preſerve that advantage, as well as to make ſure of the land-wind in the morning, followed their example, being then about five leagues from Cape Mola. An. 1756. Falls in with the French fleet off Minorca.

At day-light the enemy could not be deſcried; but two tartanes appearing cloſe to the rear of the Engliſh ſquadron, they were immediately chaced by ſignal. One eſcaped; and the other being taken, was found to have on board two French captains, two lieutenants, and about one hundred private ſoldiers, part of ſix hundred who had been ſent out in tartanes the preceding day, to reinforce the enemy's ſquadron. This ſoon re-appearing, the line of battle was formed on each ſide; and about two o'clock admiral Byng threw out a ſignal to bear away two points from the wind, and engage. At this time his diſtance from the enemy was ſo great, that rear-admiral Weſt, perceiving it impoſſible to comply with both orders, bore away with his diviſion ſeven points from the wind, and, cloſing down upon the enemy, attacked them with ſuch impetuoſity, that the ſhips which oppoſed him were in a little time driven out of the line. Had he been properly ſuſtained by the van, in all probability the Britiſh fleet would have obtained a complete victory: but the other diviſion did not bear down, and the enemy's centre keeping their ſtation, Engagement with La Galiſſionere.

An. 1756. ſtation, rear-admiral Weſt could not purſue his advantage without running the riſque of ſeeing his communication with the reſt of the line intirely cut off.

In the beginning of the action the Intrepid, in Mr. Byng's diviſion, was ſo diſabled in her rigging, that ſhe could not be managed, and drove on the ſhip that was next in poſition: a circumſtance which obliged ſeveral others to throw all a-back, in order to avoid confuſion, and for ſome time retarded the action. Certain it is, that Mr. Byng, though accommodated with a noble ſhip of ninety guns, made little or no uſe of his artillery; but kept aloof, either from an overſtrained obſervance of diſcipline, or timidity. When his captain exhorted him to bear down upon the enemy, he very coolly replied, that he would avoid the error of admiral Matthews, who, in his engagement with the French and Spaniſh ſquadrons off Toulon, during the preceding war, had broke the line by his own precipitation, and expoſed himſelf ſingly to a fire that he could not ſuſtain. Mr. Byng, on the contrary, was determined againſt acting, except with the line intire; and, on pretence of rectifying the diſorder which had happened among ſome of the ſhips, heſitated ſo long, and kept at ſuch a wary diſtance, that he never was properly engaged, though he received ſome few ſhots in his hull. Mr. de la Galiſſionere ſeemed equally averſe to the continuance of the battle: part of his ſquadron had been fairly obliged to quit the line; and tho' he was rather ſuperior to the Engliſh in number of men and weight of metal, he did not chuſe to abide the conſequence of a cloſer fight with an enemy,

ſo

ſo expert in naval operations: he therefore took advantage of Mr. Byng's heſitation, and edged away with an eaſy ſail to join his van, which had been diſcomfited. The Engliſh admiral gave chace; but the French ſhips being clean, he could not come up and cloſe them again, ſo they retired at their leiſure. Then he put his ſquadron on the other tack, in order to keep the wind of the enemy; and next morning they were altogether out of ſight. An. 1756.

While, with the reſt of his fleet, he lay to, at the diſtance of ten leagues from Mahon, he detached cruiſers to look for ſome miſſing ſhips, which joined him accordingly, and made an inquiry into the condition of the ſquadron. The number of killed amounted to forty-two, including captain Andrews of the Defiance, and about one hundred and ſixty-eight were wounded. Three of the capital ſhips were ſo damaged in their maſts, that they could not keep the ſea, with any regard to their ſafety: a great number of the ſeamen were ill, and there was no veſſel which could be converted into an hoſpital for the ſick and wounded. In this ſituation Mr. Byng called a council of war, at which the land officers were preſent. He repreſented to them, that he was much inferior to the enemy in weight of metal and numbers of men; that they had the advantage of ſending their wounded to Minorca, from whence at the ſame time they were refreſhed and reinforced occaſionally; that, in his opinion, it was impracticable to relieve St. Philip's fort, and therefore they ought to make the beſt of their way back to Gibraltar, which might require immediate protection. They

An. 1756. unanimouſly concurred with his ſentiments, and thither he directed his courſe accordingly. How he came to be ſo well acquainted with the impracticability of relieving general Blakeney, it is not eaſy to determine, inaſmuch as no experiment was made for that purpoſe. Indeed, the neglect of ſuch a trial ſeems to have been the leaſt excuſeable part of his conduct; for it afterwards appeared, that the officers and ſoldiers belonging to the garriſon might have heen landed at the ſally-port, without running any great riſque; and a gentleman, then in the fort, actually paſſed and repaſſed in a boat, unhurt by any of the enemy's batteries.

Mr. Byng returns to Gibraltar.

Mr. Byng's letter to the admiralty, containing a detail of this action, is ſaid to have arrived ſome days before it was made public; and when it appeared was curtailed of divers expreſſions and whole paragraphs, which either tended to his own juſtification, or implied a cenſure on the conduct of his ſuperiors. Whatever uſe might have been made of this letter while it remained a ſecret to the public, we ſhall not pretend to explain: but ſure it is, that on the ſixteenth day of June, Sir Edward Hawke and admiral Saunders ſailed from Spithead to Gibraltar, to ſuperſede the admirals Byng and Weſt, in their commands of the Mediterranean ſquadron; and Mr. Byng's letter was not publiſhed till the twenty-ſixth day of the ſame month, when it produced all the effect which that gentleman's bittereſt enemies could have deſired. The populace took fire like a train of the moſt haſty combuſtibles, and broke out in ſuch a clamour of rage and indignation againſt the devoted admiral, as could not have been exceeded, if he had loſt the whole

Ferment of the people at home.

whole navy of England, and left the coaſts of the kingdom naked to invaſion. This animoſity was carefully fomented and maintained by artful emiſſaries, who mingled with all public aſſemblies, from the drawing-room at St. James's to the mob at Charing-croſs. They expatiated upon the inſolence, the folly, the cowardice, and miſconduct of the unhappy admiral. They even preſumed to make their ſovereign in ſome meaſure an inſtrument of their calumny, by ſuggeſting that his majeſty had prognoſticated Byng's miſbehaviour from the contents of his firſt letter dated at Gibraltar. They ridiculed and refuted the reaſons he had given for returning to that fortreſs, after his ſcandalous rencounter with the French ſquadron; and, in order to exaſperate them to the moſt implacable reſentment, they exaggerated the terrible conſequences of loſing Minorca, which muſt now be ſubdued through his treachery, or want of reſolution. In a word, he was devoted as the ſcape goat of the m---y, to whoſe ſupine negligence, ignorance, and miſconduct the loſs of that important fortreſs was undoubtedly owing. Byng's miſcarriage was thrown out like a barrel to the whale, in order to engage the attention of the people, that it might not be attracted by the real cauſe of the national misfortune. In order to keep up the flame which had been kindled againſt the admiral, recourſe was had to the loweſt artifices. Agents were employed to vilify his perſon in all public places of vulgar reſort; and mobs were hired at different parts of the capital to hang and burn him in effigie. An. 1756.

The two officers who ſucceeded to his command in the Mediterranean were accompanied by the lord

An. 1756. Tyrawley, whom his majeſty had appointed to ſuperſede general Fowke in the government of Gibraltar, that gentleman having incurred the diſpleaſure of the miniſtry for not having underſtood an order which was unintelligible. By the ſame conveyance a letter from the ſecretary of the admiralty was tranſmitted to Mr. Byng, giving him notice that he was recalled. To this intimation he replied in ſuch a manner as denoted a conſciouſneſs of having done his duty, and a laudable deſire to vindicate his own conduct. His anſwer contained a further account of the engagement in which he was ſuppoſed to have miſbehaved, intermixed with ſome puerile calculations of the enemy's ſuperiority in weight of metal, which ſerved no other purpoſe than that of expoſing his character ſtill more to ridicule and abuſe; and he was again ſo impolitic as to hazard certain expreſſions, which added freſh fuel to the reſentment of his enemies. Directions were immediately diſpatched to Sir Edward Hawke that Byng ſhould be ſent home in arreſt: and an order to the ſame purpoſe was lodged at every port in the kingdom: precautions, which however unneceſſary, to ſecure the perſon of a man who longed ardently to juſtify his character by a public trial, were yet productive of conſiderable effect in augmenting the popular odium.

The admiral ſuperſeded, and ſent home a priſoner.

Admiral Byng immediately embarked in the ſhip which had carried out his ſucceſſor, and was accompanied by Mr. Weſt, general Fowke, and ſeveral other officers of that garriſon, who were alſo recalled in conſequence of having ſubſcribed to the reſult of the council of war, which we have mentioned above. When they arrived in England,

LORD BLAKENEY.

land, Mr. Weſt met with ſuch a gracious reception from his majeſty as was thought due to his extraordinary merit; but Mr. Byng was committed cloſe priſoner in an apartment of Greenwich hoſpital. An. 1756.

In the mean time the ſiege of St. Philip's fort in Minorca was proſecuted with unremitting vigour. The armament of Toulon, conſiſting of the fleet commanded by Mr. de la Galiſſoniere, and the troops under the duke de Richelieu, arrived on the eighteenth day of April at the port of Ciudadella, on that part of the iſland oppoſite to Mahon, or St. Philip's, and immediately began to diſembark their forces. History of the ſiege of St. Philip's fort in Minorca.

Two days before they reached the iſland, general Blakeney had by a packet-boat received certain intelligence of their approach, and begun to make preparations for the defence of the caſtle. The fort which he commanded was very extenſive, ſurrounded with numerous redoubts, ravelins, and other outworks; and provided with ſubterranean galleries, mines, and traverſes, cut out of the ſolid rock with incredible labour. Upon the whole, this was one of the beſt fortified places in Europe, well ſupplied with artillery, ammunition, and proviſion; and, without all doubt, might have ſuſtained the moſt deſperate ſiege, had it been defended by a numerous garriſon, conducted by able engineers, under the eye and auſpices of an active and ſkilful commander. All theſe advantages, however, did not concur on this occaſion. The number of troops in Minorca did not exceed four regiments, whereas the nature of the works required at leaſt double the number; and, even of theſe, above forty officers were abſent. The chief

An. 1756. engineer was rendered lame by the gout, and the general himſelf oppreſſed with the infirmities of old age. The natives of the iſland might have been ſerviceable as pioneers, or day labourers; but, from their hatred to the proteſtant religion, they were generally averſe to the Engliſh government, although they had lived happily and grown wealthy under its influence.

Precautions taken by general Blakeney.

The governor ordered his officers to beat up for volunteers in the adjacent town of St. Philip's; but few or none would inliſt under his banners, and it ſeems he would not venture to compel them into the ſervice. He recalled all his advanced parties; and, in particular, a company poſted at Fornelles, where a ſmall redoubt had been raiſed, and five companies at Ciudadella, a poſt fortified with two pieces of cannon, which were now withdrawn as ſoon as the enemy began to diſembark their forces. At the ſame time Major Cunningham was detached with a party to break down the bridges, and break up the roads, between that place and St. Philip's; but the taſk of deſtroying the roads could not be performed in ſuch a hurry, on account of the hard rock which runs along the ſurface of the ground through this whole iſland; nor was there time to demoliſh the town of St. Philip's, which ſtood ſo near the fort, that the enemy could not fail to take advantage of its neighbourhood. The ſtreets ſerved them for trenches, which otherwiſe could not have been dug through the ſolid rock. Here they made a lodgment cloſe to the works; here they found convenient barracks and quarters of refreſhment, maſks for their batteries, and an effectual cover for

their mortars and bombardiers. The general has been blamed for leaving the town ſtanding; but if we conſider his uncertainty concerning the deſtination of the French armament, the odious nature of ſuch a precaution, which could not fail to exaſperate the inhabitants, and the impoſſibility of executing ſuch a ſcheme after the firſt appearance of the enemy, he will be found excuſeable, if not altogether blameleſs. Some houſes and windmills were actually demoliſhed, ſo as to clear the eſplanade and the approaches. All the wine in the cellars of St. Philip's town was deſtroyed, and the butts were carried into the caſtle, where they might ſerve for gabions and traverſes. Five and twenty Minorquin bakers were hired, and a large number of cattle brought into the fort, for the benefit of the garriſon. The ports were walled up, the poſts aſſigned, the centinels placed, and all the different guards appointed. Commodore Edgecumbe, who then anchored in the harbour of Mahon, cloſe under the walls of the caſtle, ſailed away with his little ſquadron, conſiſting of the Cheſterfield, Princeſs Louiſa, Portland, and Dolphin, after having left all his marines, a detachment from Gibraltar, the whole crew of the Porcupine ſloop, and the greater part of the Dolphin's, as a reinforcement to the fort, under the immediate direction and command of captain Scroop of the Dolphin, who with great gallantry, offered himſelf for this ſevere duty, and bravely ſignalized himſelf during the whole ſiege. An. 1756.

The French admiral might have certainly blocked up this harbour in ſuch a manner as would have prevented the eſcape of theſe ſhips, and divers

An. 1756. other rich merchant-veſſels, which happened then to be at Mahon; but, in all probability, they purpoſely allowed them to abandon the place, which, on any emergency, or aſſault, their crews and officers would have conſiderably reinforced.

The enemy were perfectly acquainted with the great extent of the works, and the weakneſs of the garriſon; from which circumſtances they derived the moſt ſanguine hopes that the place might be ſuddenly taken, without the trouble of a regular ſiege.

After Mr. Edgecumbe had ſailed for Gibraltar, and general Blakeney had ordered a ſloop to be ſunk in the channel that leads to the harbour, the French ſquadron made its appearance at this part of the iſland; but, without having attempted any thing againſt the fort, fell to leeward of Cape Mola. Next day they came in ſight again; but ſoon bore away, and never afterwards, during the whole courſe of the ſiege, approached ſo near as to give the garriſon the leaſt diſturbance.

On the twenty ſecond day of April the governor ſent a drummer to the French general with a letter, deſiring to know his reaſons for invading the iſland. To this an anſwer was returned by the duke de Richelieu, declaring he was come with intention to reduce the iſland under the dominion of his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, by way of retaliation for the conduct of his maſter, who had ſeized and detained the ſhips belonging to the king of France and his ſubjects.

If we may judge from the firſt operations of this nobleman, he was but indifferently provided with engineers: for, inſtead of beginning his approaches

proaches on the ſide of St. Philip's town, cloſe by the outworks, where he might have been ſcreened from the fire of the garriſon, his batteries were erected at Cape Mola, on the other ſide of the harbour, where they were more expoſed, their fire much leſs effectual, and indeed at too great a diſtance to be of any ſervice. The fire of St. Philip's was ſo ſevere, and the cannon ſo well ſerved on this quarter, that in a little time the enemy thought proper to change their plan of attack, and advance on the ſide of St. Philip's town, which ought to have been the firſt object of their conſideration, eſpecially as they could find little or no earth to fill their gabions, and open their trenches in the uſual form. An. 1756. Commencement of the ſiege.

On the twelfth of May, about nine at night, they opened two bomb batteries, near the place where the wind-mills had been deſtroyed; and from that period an inceſſant fire was kept up, on both ſides, from mortars and cannon, the French continuing to raiſe new batteries in every ſituation from whence they could annoy the beſieged.

On the ſeventeenth day of the month the garriſon were tranſported with joy at ſight of the Britiſh ſquadron, commanded by admiral Byng; and Mr. Boyd, commiſſary of the ſtores, ventured to embark in a ſmall boat with ſix oars, which paſſed from St. Stephen's cove, a creek on the weſt ſide of the fortification, through a ſhower of cannon and muſquetry from the enemy's poſt on the other ſide, and actually reached the open ſea, his deſign being to join the ſquadron; but this being at a great diſtance, ſtretching away to the ſouthward, and Mr. Boyd perceiving himſelf chaced by two of The Engliſh ſquadron appears.

An. 1756. of the enemy's light veſſels, he returned by the ſame route to the garriſon, without having ſuſtained the leaſt damage. A circumſtance which plainly confutes the notion of Mr. Byng, that it was impracticable to open a communication with the garriſon of St. Philip's.

Next day the hopes of the beſieged, which had prognoſticated a naval victory to the Britiſh ſquadron, a ſpeedy relief to themſelves, and no leſs than captivity to the aſſailants, were conſiderably damped by the appearance of the French fleet, which quietly returned to their ſtation off the harbour of Mahon. That ſame evening they were told by a deſerter, that the Engliſh fleet had been worſted in an engagement by Mr. de la Galiſſoniere; and this information was ſoon confirmed by a general diſcharge, or Feu de joie, through the whole French camp, to celebrate the victory they pretended to have obtained.

How little ſoever they had reaſon to boaſt of any advantage in the action, the retreat of the Engliſh ſquadron was undoubtedly equivalent to a victory: for had Mr. Byng acquired and maintained the ſuperiority at ſea, the French forces, which had been diſembarked in Minorca, would, in all probability, have been obliged to ſurrender priſoners of war to his Britannic majeſty. The caſe was now much altered in their favour: their ſquadron cruiſed about the iſland without moleſtation: and they daily received, by means of their tranſports, reinforcements of men and ammunition, as well as conſtant ſupplies of proviſions.

The Engliſh garriſon, however mortified at finding themſelves thus abandoned, reſolved to acquit

quit themſelves with gallantry in the defence of the place, not without ſome remaining hope that the Engliſh ſquadron would be reinforced, and return to their relief. An. 1756.

In the mean time, they ſuſtained and retorted the enemy's fire with undaunted reſolution. They remounted cannon, the carriages of which had been diſabled: they removed them occaſionally to places from whence it was judged they could do the greateſt execution: they repaired breaches, reſtored merlons, and laboured with ſurpriſing alacrity, even when they were ſurrounded by the numerous batteries of the foe; when their embraſures, and even the parapets, were demoliſhed, and they ſtood expoſed not only to the cannon and mortars, but alſo to the muſquetry, which fired upon them, without ceaſing, from the windows of the houſes in the town of St. Philip. By this time they were inveſted with an army of twenty thouſand men, and plyed inceſſantly from ſixty-two battering-cannon, twenty-one mortars, and four howitzers, beſides the ſmall arms: nevertheleſs, the loſs of men within the fortreſs was very inconſiderable, the garriſon being moſtly ſecured in the ſubterranean works, which were impenetrable to ſhells or ſhot. By the twenty-ſeventh day of June they had made a practicable breach in one of the ravelins, and damaged the other outworks to ſuch a degree, that they determined this night to give a general aſſault. Accordingly, between the hours of ten and eleven, they advanced to the attack from all quartets on the land-ſide. At the ſame time a ſtrong detachment, in armed boats, attempted to force the harbour, and penetrate into the

General attack of the works.

An. 1756. the creek, called St. Stephen's cove, to ſtorm Fort Charles, and ſecond the attack upon Fort Marlborough on the farther ſide of the creek, the moſt detached of all the outworks. The enemy advanced with great intrepidity, and their commander, the duke de Richelieu, is ſaid to have led them up to the works in perſon.

Such an aſſault could not but be attended with great ſlaughter: they were mowed down, as they approached, with grape-ſhot and muſquetry; and ſeveral mines were ſprung with great effect, ſo that the glacis was almoſt covered with the dying and the dead. Nevertheleſs, they perſevered with uncommon reſolution; and, though repulſed on every other ſide, at length made a lodgement in the Queen's redoubt, which had been greatly damaged by their cannon. Whether their ſucceſs in this quarter was owing to the weakneſs of the place, or to the timidity of the defenders, certain it is, the enemy were in poſſeſſion before it was known to the officers of the garriſon: for lieutenant-colonel Jeffries, the ſecond in command, who had acquitted himſelf ſince the beginning of the ſiege with equal courage, ſkill, and activity, in his viſitation of this poſt, was ſuddenly ſurrounded and taken by a file of French grenadiers, at a time when he never dreamed they had made a lodgement. Major Cunningham, who accompanied him, met with a ſeverer fate, though he eſcaped captivity: he was run through the right arm with a bayonet, and the piece being diſcharged at the ſame time, ſhattered the bones of his hand in ſuch a manner, that he was maimed for life. In this ſhocking condition he retired behind a traverſe, and was carried home

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to his quarters. Thus the governor was deprived of his two principal aſſiſtants, one being taken, and the other diſabled. An. 1756.

The enemy having made themſelves maſters of Anſtruther's and the Queen's redoubts, from which perhaps they might have been diſlodged, had a vigorous effort been made for that purpoſe, before they had leiſure to ſecure themſelves, the duke de Richelieu ordered a parley to be beat, in order to obtain permiſſion to bury the dead, and remove the wounded. This requeſt was granted with more humanity than diſcretion, inaſmuch as the enemy took this opportunity to throw a reinforcement of men privately into the places where the lodgements had been made, and theſe penetrated into the gallery of the mines, which communicated with all the other outworks.

The garriſon capitulates.

During this ſhort ceſſation, general Blakeney ſummoned a council of war, to deliberate upon the ſtate of the fort and garriſon; and the majority declared for a capitulation. The works were in many places ruined; the body of the caſtle was ſhattered; many guns were diſmounted, the embraſures and parapets demoliſhed, the paliſadoes broke in pieces, the garriſon exhauſted with hard duty and inceſſant watching, and the enemy in poſſeſſion of the ſubterranean communications. Beſides, the governor had received information from priſoners, that the duke de Richelieu was alarmed by a report that the marſhal duke de Belleiſle would be ſent to ſuperſede him in the command, and for that reaſon would hazard another deſperate aſſault, which it was the opinion of the majority the garriſon could not ſuſtain. Theſe conſiderations, added to the

deſpair

An. 1756. deſpair of being relieved, induced him to demand a capitulation. But this meaſure was not taken with the unanimous conſent of the council. Some officers obſerved, that the garriſon was very little diminiſhed, and ſtill in good ſpirits: that no breach was made in the body of the caſtle, nor a ſingle cannon erected to batter in breach: that the loſs of an outwork was never deemed a ſufficient reaſon for ſurrendering ſuch a fortreſs: that the counterſcarp was not yet taken, nor, on account of the rocky ſoil, could be taken, except by aſſault, which would coſt the enemy a greater number than they had loſt in their late attempt: that they could not attack the ditch, or batter in breach, before the counterſcarp ſhould be taken, and even then they muſt have recourſe to galleries before they could paſs the foſſe, which was furniſhed with mines and countermines: finally, they ſuggeſted that in all probability the Britiſh ſquadron would be reinforced, and ſail back to their relief; or if it ſhould not return, it was the duty of the governor to defend the place to extremity, without having any regard to the conſequences. Theſe remarks being over-ruled, the chamade was beat, a conference enſued, and very honourable conditions were granted to the garriſon, in conſideration of the gallant defence they had made. This it muſt be owned was vigorous while it laſted, as the French general was ſaid to have loſt five thouſand men in the ſiege; whereas the loſs of the garriſon, which at firſt fell ſhort of three thouſand men, did not exceed one hundred. The capitulation imported that the garriſon ſhould march out with all the honours of war, and be conveyed by ſea to Gibraltar. The French were put in

in poſſeſſion of one gate, as well as Fort Charles and Marlborough redoubt: but the Engliſh troops remained in the other works till the ſeventh day of July, when they embarked. In the mean time reciprocal civilities paſſed between the commanders and officers of both nations. An. 1756.

The articles of capitulation were no ſooner executed than monſieur de la Galiſſoniere ſailed back to Toulon, with all the prizes which had lain at anchor in the harbour of Mahon ſince the fort of St. Philip was firſt inveſted. In all probability the ſafety of himſelf and his whole ſquadron was owing to this expeditious retreat; for in a few days after the ſurrender of the fort, Sir Edward Hawke's fleet, augmented by five ſhips of the line, which had been ſent from England, when the firſt tidings arrived of Minorca's being invaded, now made its appearance off the iſland: but by this time Galiſſoniere was retired, and the Engliſh admiral had the mortification to ſee the French colours flying upon St. Philip's Caſtle. What perhaps chagrined this gallant officer ſtill more, he was not provided with frigates, ſloops, and ſmall craft to cruiſe around the iſland, and intercept the ſupplies which were daily ſent to the enemy. Had he reached Minorca ſooner he might have diſcomfited the French ſquadron; but he could not have raiſed the ſiege of St. Philip's, becauſe the duke de Richelieu had received his reinforcements, and ſuch a train of artillery as no fortification could long withſtand. Indeed, if the garriſon had been conſiderably reinforced, and the communication with it opened by ſea, the defence would have been protracted, and ſo many vigorous ſallies might have been made, that the aſſailants would

Sir Edw: Hawke ſails to Minorca.

An. 1756. would have had cauſe to repent of their enterprize.

Rejoicings in France, and clamour in England.

When the news of this conqueſt was brought to Verſailles, by the count of Egmont, whom the duke de Richelieu had diſpatched for that purpoſe, the people of France were tranſported with the moſt extravagant joy. Nothing was ſeen but triumphs and proceſſions; nothing heard but anthems, congratulations, and hyperbolical encomiums upon the conqueror of Minorca, who was celebrated in a thouſand poems, and ſtudied orations; while the conduct of the Engliſh was vilified and ridiculed in ballads, farces, and paſquinades. Nothing more argues the degeneracy of a warlike nation than the pride of ſuch mean triumph for an advantage which, in more vigorous times, would ſcarce have been diſtinguiſhed by the ceremony of a Te Deum Laudamus. Nor is this childiſh exultation, that diſgraces the laurels of victory, confined to the kingdom of France. Truth obliges us to own, that even the ſubjects of Great Britain are apt to be elevated by ſucceſs into an illiberal inſolence of ſelf-applauſe, and contemptuous compariſon. This muſt be condemned as a proof of unmanly arrogance, and abſurd ſelf-conceit, by all thoſe who coolly reflect, that the events of war generally, if not always, depend upon the genius or miſconduct of one individual.

The loſs of Minorca was ſeverely felt in England, as a national diſgrace; but, inſtead of producing dejection and deſpondence, it excited an univerſal clamour of rage and reſentment, not only againſt Mr. Byng, who had retreated from the French ſquadron; but alſo in reproach of the adminiſtration,

miniſtration, which was taxed with having neglected the ſecurity of Minorca. Nay, ſome politicians were inflamed into a ſuſpicion, that this important place had been negatively betrayed into the hands of the enemy, that, in caſe the arms of Great Britain ſhould proſper in other parts of the world, the French king might have ſome ſort of equivalent to reſtore for the conqueſts which ſhould be abandoned at the peace. This notion, however, ſeems to have been conceived from prejudice and party, which now began to appear with the moſt acrimonious aſpect, not only throughout the united kingdoms in general, but even in the ſ—— n's councils. An. 1756.

Sir Edward Hawke, being diſappointed in his hope of encountering la Galiſſoniere, and relieving the Engliſh garriſon of St. Philip's, at leaſt aſſerted the empire of Great Britain in the Mediterranean, by annoying the commerce of the enemy, and blocking up their ſquadron in the harbour of Toulon. Underſtanding that the Auſtrian government at Leghorn had detained an Engliſh privateer, and impriſoned the captain, on pretence that he had violated the neutrality of the port, he detached two ſhips of war to inſiſt, in a peremptory manner, on the releaſe of the ſhip, effects, crew, and captain; and they thought proper to comply with his demand, even without waiting for orders from the court of Vienna. The perſon in whoſe behalf the admiral thus interpoſed, was one Fortunatus Wright, a native of Liverpool; who, though a ſtranger to a ſea-life, had, in the laſt war, equipped a privateer, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf in ſuch a manner, by his uncommon vigilance and valour,

An. 1756. Gallantry of Fortunatus Wright.

that, if he had been indulged with a command ſuitable to his genius, he would have deſerved as honourable a place in the annals of the navy, as that which the French have beſtowed upon their boaſted Gue Trouin, Du Bart, and Thurot. An uncommon exertion of ſpirit was the occaſion of his being detained at this juncture. While he lay at anchor in the harbour of Leghorn, commander of the St. George privateer of Liverpool, a ſmall ſhip of twelve guns and eighty men, a large French xebeque, mounted with ſixteen cannon, and nearly three times the number of his complement, choſe her ſtation in view of the harbour, in order to interrupt the Britiſh commerce. The gallant Wright could not endure this inſult: notwithſtanding the enemy's ſuperiority in metal and number of men, he weighed anchor, hoiſted his ſails, engaged him within ſight of the ſhore, and after a very obſtinate diſpute, in which the captain, lieutenant, and above threeſcore of the men belonging to the xebeque were killed on the ſpot, he obliged them to ſheer off, and returned to the harbour in triumph. This brave corſair would, no doubt, have ſignalized himſelf by many other exploits, had not he, in the ſequel, been overtaken in the midſt of his career by a dreadful ſtorm, in which the ſhip foundering, he and all his crew periſhed.

Sir Edward Hawke, having ſcoured the Mediterranean, and inſulted the enemy's ports, returned with the homeward-bound trade to Gibraltar; from whence, about the latter end of the year, he ſet ſail for England with part of his ſquadron, leaving the reſt in that bay for the protection of our commerce, which in thoſe parts ſoon began to ſuffer

ſuffer extremely from French privateers, that now ſwarmed in the Mediterranean. An. 1756.

General Blakeney had arrived, with the garriſon of Minorca, at Portſmouth in the month of November, and been received with expreſſions of tumultuous joy: every place through which he paſſed, celebrated his return with bonfires, illuminations, bell-ringing, and acclamation: every mouth was opened in his praiſe, extolling him for the gallant defence he had made in the caſtle of St. Philip. In a word, the people's veneration for Blakeney increaſed in proportion to their abhorrence of Byng: the firſt was lifted into an idol of admiration, while the other ſunk into an object of reproach; and they were viewed at different ends of a falſe perſpective, through the medium of prejudice and paſſion; of a perſpective artfully contrived, and applied by certain m——rs for the purpoſes of ſelf-intereſt and deceit. The ſ--- is ſaid to have been influenced by the prepoſſeſſion of the ſ—t. Mr. Blakeney met with a gracious reception from his majeſty, who raiſed him to the rank of an Iriſh baron, in conſideration of his faithful ſervices, while ſome malecontents murmured at this mark of favour as an unreaſonable ſacrifice to popular miſapprehenſion.

General Blakeney promoted to the dignity of a baron.

In the beginning of the year, the meaſures taken by the government in England, ſeem to have been chiefly dictated by the dread of an invaſion, from which the miniſters did not think themſelves ſecured by the guard-ſhips and cruiſers on different parts of the coaſt, or the ſtanding army of the kingdom, though reinforced by the two bodies of German auxiliaries. A conſiderable number of

An. 1756. new troops was levied: the ſucceſs in recruiting was not only promoted by the land-holders throughout the kingdom, who thought their eſtates were at ſtake, and for that reaſon encouraged their dependants to engage in the ſervice, but alſo in a great meaſure owing to a dearth of corn, which reduced the lower claſs of labourers to ſuch diſtreſs, that ſome inſurrections were raiſed, and many inliſted with a view to obtain a livelihood, which otherwiſe they could not earn.

Meaſures taken for the defence of Great Britain.

New ſhips of war were built, and daily put in commiſſion; but it was found impracticable to man them, without having recourſe to the odious and illegal practice of impreſſing ſailors, which muſt always be a reproach to every free people.

Notwithſtanding large bounties, granted by the government to volunteers, it was found neceſſary to lay an embargo upon all ſhipping, and impreſs all the ſeamen that could be found, without any regard to former protections; ſo that all the merchant-ſhips were ſtripped of their hands, and foreign commerce for ſome time wholly ſuſpended. Nay, the expedient of compelling men into the ſervice, was carried to an unuſual degree of oppreſſion; for rewards were publicly offered to thoſe who ſhould diſcover where any ſeaman lay concealed: ſo that thoſe unhappy people were in ſome reſpects treated like felons, dragged from their families and connexions to confinement, mutilation, and death, and totally cut off from the enjoyment of that liberty, which, perhaps at the expence of their lives, their own arms had help-

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ed to preſerve, in favour of their ungrateful country*. An. 1756.

Above eighty ſhips of the line, and threeſcore frigates were already equipped, and conſiderable bodies of land-forces aſſembled, when, on the third day of February, a proclamation was iſſued, requiring all officers civil and military, upon the firſt appearance of any hoſtile attempt to land upon the coaſts of the kingdom, immediately to cauſe all horſes, oxen, and cattle, which might be fit for draught or burthen, and not actually employed in the king's ſervice, or in the defence of the country, and alſo (ſo far as might be practicable) all other cattle and proviſions, to be driven and removed twenty miles at leaſt from the place where ſuch hoſtile attempt ſhould be made, and to ſecure the ſame, ſo as that they might not fall into the hands or power of thoſe who ſhould make ſuch attempt; regard being had, however, that the reſpective owners ſhould ſuffer as little damage as might be conſiſtent with the public ſafety. Proclamation.

As the miniſtry were determined to make their chief efforts againſt the enemy in North America, where the firſt hoſtilities had been committed, and where the ſtrongeſt impreſſion could be made, a

* At this juncture a number of public-ſpirited merchants of the city of London, and others, formed themſelves into a very laudable aſſociation, under the name of the Marine Society, and contributed conſiderable ſums of money for equipping ſuch orphans, friendleſs, and forlorn boys, as were willing to engage in the ſervice of the navy. In conſequence of this excellent plan, which was executed with equal zeal and diſcretion, many thouſands were reſcued from miſery, and rendered uſeful members of that ſociety, of which they muſt have been the bane and the reproach, without this humane interpoſition.

An. 1756. detachment of two regiments was ſent thither under the conduct of general Abercrombie, appointed as ſucceſſor to general Shirley, whom they had recalled, as a perſon no ways qualified to conduct military operations: nor, indeed, could any ſucceſs in war be expected from the endeavours of a man who had not been trained to arms, nor ever acted but in a civil capacity. But the command in chief of all the forces in America was conferred upon the earl of Loudon, a nobleman of an amiable character, who had already diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the ſervice of his country. Over and above his command, he was now appointed governor of Virginia, and colonel of a royal American regiment, conſiſting of four battalions, to be raiſed in that country, and diſciplined by officers of experience, invited from foreign ſervice. Mr. Abercrombie ſet ſail for America in March; but the earl of Loudon, who directed in chief the plan of operations, and was veſted with power and authority little inferior to thoſe of a viceroy, did not embark till the latter end of May.

The earl of Loudon appointed commander in chief in America.

All theſe previous meaſures being taken, his majeſty, in the courſe of the ſame month, thought proper to publiſh a declaration of war * againſt the French

His Britannic majeſty's declaration of war.

* When the French ambaſſador returned to London, he propoſed that orders ſhould be immediately diſpatched to the Engliſh governors in America, with expreſs orders to deſiſt from any new undertaking, and all acts of hoſtility; but with regard to the lands on the Ohio, to put, without delay, matters on the ſame footing in which they ſtood before the late war, that the reſpective claims of both nations might be amicably referred to the commiſſaries at Paris. The Britiſh court agreed to the ceſſation of hoſtilities, and the diſcuſſion of the diſputes by the miniſters of the two crowns, on

French king, importing, That, ſince the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, the uſurpations and encroachments made upon the Britiſh territories in America had been notorious: That his Britannic majeſty had, in divers ſerious repreſentations to the court An. 1756.

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on condition that all the poſſeſſions in America ſhould be previouſly put in the ſituation preſcribed by the treaty of Utrecht, confirmed by that of Aix-la-Chapelle. The French miniſtry, inſtead of complying with this condition, produced an evaſive draught of a preliminary convention, and this was anſwered by a counter-propoſal. At length the ambaſſador of France demanded, as preliminary conditions, that Great Britain would renounce all claim to the ſouth coaſt of the river St. Laurence, and the lakes that diſcharge themſelves into that river; cede to the French twenty leagues of country lying along the bay of Fundy, which divides Acadia, or Nova Scotia; and all the land between the rivers Ohio and Ouabache. A memorial was afterwards preſented on the ſame ſubject, including the affair of the neutral iſlands in the Weſt-Indies; but this was amply refuted in another piece, in which the Britiſh miniſtry obſerved, that even at the very opening of the commiſſion eſtabliſhed in Paris, for terminating amicably the diſputes in North America, the French invaded Nova Scotia, erected three forts in the heart of that province, and would have deſtroyed the Engliſh ſettlement at Halifax, had not they been prevented: That the like hoſtilities were committed upon his Britannic majeſty's ſubjects on the Ohio and Indian lakes, where the governors appointed by the French king, without any ſhadow of right, prohibited the Engliſh from trading; ſeized their traders by force, and ſent them priſoners to France; invaded the territories of Virginia, attacked a fort that covered its frontier, and, to ſecure their uſurpations, erected, with an armed force, a chain of forts on the lands which they had invaded: That his Britannic majeſty had complained of theſe hoſtilities to the court of Verſailles, but without effect; ſo that he found himſelf obliged to provide for the ſecurity of his ſubjects; and as the encroachments made by France were hoſtile, it could never be unlawful, or irreconcilable with the aſſurance of his majeſty's peaceable diſpoſition, to repel an aggreſſor; and that the ſame motive of ſelf-defence had forced him to ſeize the French ſhips and ſailors, in order to deprive that court of the means of making an invaſion, with which their miniſters in all the courts of Europe had menaced England.

An. 1756. of Verſailles, complained of theſe repeated acts of violence, and demanded ſatisfaction; but notwithſtanding the repeated aſſurances given by the French king, that every thing ſhould be ſettled agreeable to the treaties ſubſiſting between the two crowns, and particularly that the evacuation of the four neutral iſlands in the Weſt Indies ſhould be effected, the execution of theſe aſſurances, and of the treaties on which they were founded, had been evaded under the moſt frivolous pretences: That the unjuſtifiable practices of the French governors, and officers acting under their authority, were ſtill continued, until they broke out in open acts of hoſtility in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-four, when, in time of profound peace, without any declaration of war, without any previous notice given, or application made, a body of French troops, commanded by an officer bearing the French king's commiſſion, attacked in an hoſtile manner, and took poſſeſſion of, an Engliſh fort on the river Ohio in North America: That great naval armaments were prepared in the ports of France, and a conſiderable body of French troops embarked for that country: That although the French ambaſſador was ſent back to England with ſpecious profeſſions of a deſire to accommodate theſe differences, it appeared their real deſign was only to amuſe, and gain time for the paſſage of theſe ſupplies and reinforcements, which they hoped would ſecure the ſuperiority of the French forces in America, and enable them to carry their ambitious and oppreſſive projects into execution: That, in conſequence of the juſt and neceſſary meaſures taken by the king of Great Britain for preventing

venting the ſucceſs of ſuch a dangerous deſign, the French ambaſſador was immediately recalled from England, the fortifications of Dunkirk were enlarged, great bodies of troops marched down to the ſea coaſts of France, and the Britiſh dominions threatened with an invaſion: That though the king of England, in order to fruſtrate theſe intentions, had given orders for ſeizing at ſea the ſhips of the French king and his ſubjects, yet he had hitherto contented himſelf with detaining thoſe ſhips which had been taken, and preſerving their cargoes entire, without proceeding to confiſcation; but it being at laſt evident, from the hoſtile invaſion of Minorca, that the court of Verſailles was determined to reject all propoſals of accommodation, and carry on the war with the utmoſt violence, his Britannic majeſty could no longer, conſiſtently with the honour of his crown, and the welfare of his ſubjects, remain within thoſe bounds, which, from a deſire of peace, he had hitherto obſerved. A denunciation of war followed in the uſual form, and was concluded with an aſſurance, that all the French ſubjects reſiding in Great Britain and Ireland, who ſhould demean themſelves dutifully to the government, might depend upon its protection, and be ſafe in their perſons and effects. An. 1756.

In the beginning of June the French king declared war in his turn againſt his Britannic majeſty, and his declaration was couched in terms of uncommon aſperity. He artfully threw a ſhade over the beginning of hoſtilities in North America, referring to a memorial which had been delivered to the ſeveral courts of Europe, containing a ſummary of thoſe facts which related to the preſent war, Subſtance of the French king's declaration.

An. 1756. war, and the negotiations by which it had been preceded. He inſiſted on the attack made by the king of England, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty four, on the French poſſeſſions in North America; and afterwards by the Engliſh navy on the navigation and commerce of the French ſubjects, in contempt of the law of nations, and direct violation of treaties. He complained, that the French ſoldiers and ſailors underwent the harſheſt treatment in the Britiſh iſles, exceeding thoſe bounds which are preſcribed to the moſt rigorous rights of war, by the law of nature and common humanity. He affirmed, that while the Engliſh miniſtry, under the appearance of ſincerity, impoſed upon the French ambaſſador with falſe proteſtations, orders diametrically oppoſite to theſe deceitful aſſurances of a ſpeedy accommodation, were actually carrying into execution in North America: That while the court of London employed every caballing art, and ſquandered away the ſubſidies of England, to inſtigate other powers againſt France, his moſt Chriſtian majeſty did not even aſk of theſe powers the ſuccours which guaranties and defenſive treaties authoriſed him to demand; but recommended to them ſuch meaſures only as tended to their own peace and ſecurity: That while the Engliſh navy, by the moſt odious violences, and ſometimes by the vileſt artifices, made captures of French veſſels, navigating in full ſecurity under the ſafeguard of public faith, his moſt Chriſtian majeſty releaſed an Engliſh frigate taken by a French ſquadron, and Britiſh veſſels trading to the ports of France without moleſtation: That the ſtriking contraſt formed by theſe different

methods of proceeding would convince all Europe, that one court was guided by motives of jealouſy, ambition and avarice; and that the conduct of the other was founded on principles of honour, juſtice, and moderation: That the vague imputations contained in the king of England's declaration, had in reality no foundation; and the very manner in which they were ſet forth, would prove their futility and falſhood: That the mention made of the works at Dunkirk, and the troops aſſembled on the coaſts of the ocean, implied the moſt groſs attempt to deceive mankind into a belief, that theſe were the points which determined the king of England to iſſue orders for ſeizing the French veſſels; whereas the works at Dunkirk were not begun till after two French ſhips of war had been taken by an Engliſh ſquadron; and depredations had been committed ſix months upon the ſubjects of France before the firſt battalions began their march for the ſea-ſide. An. 1756.

In a word, the moſt Chriſtian king, laying aſide that politeneſs and decorum on which his people value themſelves above all the nations upon the face of the earth, very roundly taxes his brother monarch's adminiſtration with piracy, perfidy, inhumanity, and deceit. A charge conveyed in ſuch reproachful terms, againſt one of the moſt reſpectable crowned heads in Europe, will appear the more extraordinary and injurious, if we conſider that the accuſers were well acquainted with the falſity of their own imputations, and at the ſame time conſcious of having practiſed thoſe very arts which they affected ſo much to decry. For, after all, it muſt be allowed, that nothing could be juſtly urged Remarks on this piece.

An. 1756. urged againſt the Engliſh government, with reſpect to France, except the omiſſion of a meer form, which other nations might interpret into an irregularity, but could not conſtrue into perfidious dealing, as the French had previouſly violated the peace by their inſolence and incroachments.

Whatever might have been the opinion of other nations, certain it is, the ſubjects of Great Britain heartily approved of the hoſtilities committed and intended againſt a people, whom they have always conſidered as their natural enemies, and the incendiaries of Europe. They chearfully contributed to the expence of armaments *, and ſeemed to approve of their deſtination, in hope of being able to wipe off the diſgraces they had ſuſtained in the defeat of Braddock, and the loſs of Minorca. The laſt event made a deep impreſſion upon the minds of the community. An addreſs was preſented to the king by the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council of London, containing ſtrong hints to the diſadvantage of the miniſtry. They expreſſed their apprehenſion, that the loſs of the important fortreſs of St. Philip and iſland of Minorca, poſſeſſions of the utmoſt conſequence to the commerce and naval ſtrength of Great Britain, without any attempt by timely and effectual ſuccours to prevent or defeat an attack, after ſuch early notice of the enemy's intentions, and when his majeſty's navy

Addreſs of the city of London.

* Immediately after the declaration of war, the French ſhips and cargoes which had been taken were tried, and condemned as legal prizes, expoſed to public ſale, and their produce lodged in the bank; but in what manner this money, amounting to a large ſum, was diſtributed or employed, we have not yet been able to diſcover.

was

was ſo evidently ſuperior to theirs, would be an indelible reproach on the honour of the Britiſh nation. They expatiated upon the imminent danger to which the Britiſh poſſeſſions in America were expoſed, by the miſmanagement and delays which had attended the defence of thoſe invaluable colonies, the object of the preſent war, the principal ſource of the wealth and ſtrength of theſe kingdoms. They lamented the want of a conſtitutional well-regulated militia, the moſt natural and certain defence againſt all invaders whatſoever. They ſignified their hope, that the authors of the late loſſes and diſappointments would be detected and brought to condign puniſhment; that his majeſty's known intentions of protecting and defending his ſubjects in their rights and poſſeſſions, might be faithfully and vigorouſly carried into execution; and the large ſupplies, ſo neceſſarily demanded, and ſo chearfully granted, might be religiouſly applied to the defence of theſe kingdoms, their colonies, and their commerce, as well as to the annoyance of their inveterate and perfidious enemies, the only ſure means of obtaining a laſting and honourable peace. In anſwer to this addreſs the king aſſured them, that he would not fail to do juſtice upon any perſons who ſhould have been wanting in their duty to him and their country; to enforce obedience and diſcipline in his fleets and armies; and to ſupport the authority and reſpect due to his government. Remonſtrances of the ſame kind were preſented by different counties and corporations; and the populace clamoured aloud for inquiry and juſtice. An. 1756.

An. 1756. Trial of general F---ke.

The firſt victim offered to the enraged multitude was the unfortunate general F---ke, who had been deputy-governor of Gibraltar, and behaved with remarkable conduct and integrity in the exerciſe of that important office, till that period when he fell under the diſpleaſure of the government. He was now brought to trial before a board of general officers, and accuſed of having diſobeyed the orders he had received from the ſecretary at war in three ſucceſſive letters *, touching the relief of Minorca. Mr.

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* *To Lieut. Gen.* F——ke, *or, in his abſence, to the Commander in Chief in his Majeſty's Garriſon of* Gibraltar.

War-Office, March 21, 1756.

SIR,

I am commanded to acquaint you, that it is his majeſty's pleaſure that you receive into your garriſon lord Robert Bertie's regiment, to do duty there; and in caſe you ſhall apprehend that the French intend to make any attempt upon his majeſty's iſland of Minorca, it is his majeſty's pleaſure, that you make a detachment out of the troops in your garriſon equal to a battalion, to be commanded by a lieutenant-colonel and major; ſuch lieutenant-colonel and major to be the eldeſt in your garriſon, to be put on board the fleet for the relief of Minorca, as the admiral ſhall think expedient, who is to carry them to the ſaid iſland. I am

Your humble Servant,

B.

To Lieut. Gen. F——ke, *or, in his abſence, to the Commander in Chief at* Gibraltar.

War-Office, March 26, 1756.

SIR,

I am commanded to acquaint you, that it is his majeſty's pleaſure, in caſe the iſland of Minorca ſhould be in any likelihood of being attacked, that you make a detachment from the troops in your garriſon equal to a battalion, commanded by a lieutenant-colonel and major, for the relief of that place, to be put on board the fleet, at the diſpoſition of the admiral: ſuch lieutenant-colonel and major to be the eldeſt in your garriſon.

To

Mr. F----ke alledged in his own defence, that the orders were confuſed and contradictory, and implied a diſcretionary power: that the whole number of his garriſon did not exceed two thouſand ſix hundred men, after he had ſpared two hundred and ſeventy-five to the ſhips commanded by Mr. Edgcumbe: that the ordinary duty of the garriſon requiring eight hundred men, the whole number was not ſufficient for three reliefs: that, if he had detached a battalion on board the fleet, he ſhould not have had above two reliefs, at a time when he believed the place was in danger of being attacked, for good reaſons which he did not think himſelf at liberty to An. 1756.

To Lieut. Gen. F——ke, *or, in his abſence, to the Commander in Chief in his Majeſty's Garriſon in* Gibraltar.

War-Office, April 1, 1756.

SIR,

It is his majeſty's pleaſure, that you receive into your garriſon the women and children belonging to lord Robert Bertie's regiment.

To Lieut. Gen. F——ke, *or the Commander in Chief at* Gibraltar.

War-Office, May 12, 1756.

SIR,

I wrote to you by general Stewart: if that order is not complied with, then you are now to make a detachment of 700 men out of your own regiment and Guiſe's; and alſo another detachment out of Pulteney's and Panmure's regiments, and ſend them on board the fleet for the relief of Mahon. But if that order has been complied with, then you are to make only one detachment of 700 men, to be commanded by another lieutenant-colonel and major, and to ſend it to Mahon; and you are alſo to detain all ſuch empty veſſels as ſhall come into your harbour, and keep them in readineſs for any farther tranſportation of troops. I have alſo his royal highneſs the duke of Cumberland's commands to deſire, that you will keep your garriſon as alert as poſſible, during this critical time, and give ſuch other aſſiſtance as may be in your power for the relief of Minorca; taking care, however, not to fatigue or endanger your own garriſon.

men-

An. 1756. mention; that his orders being doubtful, he held a council of war, which was of opinion, that as undoubted intelligence was received of the French army's being landed in Minorca to the number of between thirteen and ſixteen thouſand men, and that a French ſquadron of ſixteen ſhips were ſtationed off the harbour, the ſending a detachment equal to a battalion from Gibraltar would be an ineffectual ſupply for the relief of the place, and a weakening of the garriſon from which they muſt be ſent. He obſerved that ſuppoſing the orders to have been poſitive, and ſeven hundred men detached to Minorca, the number remaining at Gibraltar would not have exceeded one thouſand five hundred and fifty-ſix; a deduction of ſeven hundred more, according to the order of May the twelfth, would have left a remainder of eight hundred and fifty-ſix; that the men daily on duty in the garriſon, including artificers and labourers in the king's works, amounted to eight hundred and thirty-nine; ſo that if he had complied with the orders as they arrived, he would not have had more than ſeventeen men over and above the number neceſſary for the daily work of the garriſon: thus the important fortreſs of Gibraltar muſt, at this critical conjuncture, have been left almoſt naked and defenceleſs to the attempts of the enemy; and had thoſe detachments been actually ſent aboard, it afterwards appeared that they could not have been landed on the iſland of Minorca. The order tranſmitted to general F——ke to detain all empty veſſels, for a farther tranſportation of troops, ſeems to have been ſuperfluous; for it can hardly be ſuppoſed he could have occaſion for them, unleſs to embark the whole garri-

garriſon, and abandon the place. It ſeems likewiſe to have been unneceſſary to exhort the general to keep his garriſon as alert as poſſible, during that critical time; inaſmuch as it would have been impoſſible for the men to have enjoyed the leaſt repoſe or intermiſſion of duty, had the orders been punctually and literally obeyed. What other aſſiſtance it might have been in the governor's power to give for the relief of Minorca, or in what manner he could avoid fatiguing his garriſon, while there was an impoſſibility of relieving the guards, it is not eaſy to comprehend. Be that as it may, when the trial was finiſhed, and the queſtion put to acquit or ſuſpend for one year, the court was equally divided; and in ſuch caſes the caſting vote being veſted in the preſident, he threw it into the ſcale againſt the priſoner, whom his majeſty thought fit to diſmiſs from his ſervice. An. 1756.

Affairs of America.

The expectation of the public was now eagerly turned towards America, the chief if not the ſole ſcene of our military operations. On the twenty-fifth day of June, Mr. Abercrombie arrived at Albany, the frontier of New York, and aſſumed the command of the forces there aſſembled, conſiſting of two regiments which had ſerved under Braddock, two battalions raiſed in America, two regiments now tranſported from England, four independent companies which had been many years maintained in New York, the New Jerſey regiment, four companies levied in North Carolina, and a body of provincial forces raiſed by the government of New England. Thoſe to the ſouthward, including Penſylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, had not yet determined on any regular plan of operation,

An. 1756. and were moreover hard preſſed in defending their weſtern frontier from the French and Indians, who, in ſculking parties, made ſudden irruptions upon their unguarded ſettlements, burning, plundering, and maſſacring with the moſt ſavage inhumanity. As for South Carolina, the proportion of Negro-ſlaves to the number of white inhabitants, was ſo great in that colony, that the government could not, with any regard to the ſafety of the province, ſpare any reinforcement for the general enterprize. The plan of this undertaking had been ſettled the preceding year in a council of war held at New York. Here it was reſolved to attack the fort of Niagara, ſituated between the lakes Ontario and Erie, in order to cut off the communication between Canada and Louiſiana, and prevent the French from ſupporting their new fortreſſes on the Ohio; to reduce Ticonderago and Crown-Point, ſo that the frontier of New York might be delivered from the danger of an invaſion, and Great Britain become maſter of the lake Champlain, over which the forces might be tranſported in any future attempt; to beſiege Fort Du Queſne upon the Ohio; and to detach a body of troops, by the river Kennebec, to alarm the capital of Canada. This plan was too extenſive for the number of troops which had been prepared: the ſeaſon was too far advanced before the regiments arrived from England, the different colonies were divided in their opinions, and Mr. Abercrombie poſtponed the execution of any important ſcheme till the arrival of lord Loudon, who was daily expected. The reaſons that delayed the reinforcement, and detained his lordſhip ſo long, we do not pretend to explain; though we may be allowed

allowed to obſerve, that many fair opportunities have been loſt by the neglect and procraſtination of an Engliſh miniſtry. Certain it is, the unaccountable delay of this armament rendered it uſeleſs for a whole year, afforded time and leiſure to the enemy to take their precautions againſt any ſubſequent attack, and, in the mean time, to proceed unmoleſted in diſtreſſing the Britiſh ſettlements. An. 1756.

Even before this period, they had attacked and reduced a ſmall poſt in the country of the Five Nations, occupied by twenty-five Engliſhmen, who were cruelly butchered to a man, in the midſt of thoſe Indians whom Great Britain had long numbered among her allies.

Soon after this expedition, having received intelligence that a conſiderable convoy of proviſions and ſtores, for the garriſon at Oſwego, would in a little time ſet out from Schenectady, and be conveyed in battoes up the river Onondaga, they formed an ambuſcade among the woods and thickets on the north ſide of that river; but, underſtanding the convoy had paſſed before they reached the place, they reſolved to wait the return of the detachment. Their deſign, however, was fruſtrated by the vigilance and valour of colonel Bradſtreet, who expected ſuch an attempt, and had taken his meaſures accordingly. On the third day of July, while he ſtemmed the ſtream of the river, with his battoes formed into three diviſions, they were ſaluted with the Indian war-whoop, and a general diſcharge of muſquetry from the north-ſhore. Bradſtreet immediately ordered his men to land on the oppoſite bank, and with a few of the foremoſt

A body of French repulſed by col. Bradſtreet on the river Onondaga.

An. 1756. took poſſeſſion of a ſmall iſland, where he was forthwith attacked by a party of the enemy, who had forded the river for that purpoſe; but theſe were ſoon repulſed. Another body having paſſed a mile higher, he advanced to them at the head of two hundred men, and fell upon them, ſword in hand, with ſuch vigour, that many were killed on the ſpot, and the reſt driven into the river with ſuch precipitation, that a conſiderable number of them was drowned. Having received information that a third body of them had paſſed at a ford ſtill higher, he marched thither without heſitation, and purſued them to the other ſide, where they were entirely routed and diſperſed. In this action, which laſted near three hours, about ſeventy of the battoe-men were killed or wounded: but the enemy loſt double the number killed, and above ſeventy taken priſoners. In all probability the whole detachment of French, amounting to ſeven hundred men, would have been cut off, had not a heavy rain interpoſed, and diſabled colonel Bradſtreet from following his blow; for that ſame night he was joined by captain Patten, with his grenadiers, in his march from Oneida to Oſwego, and next morning reinforced with two hundred men, detached to his aſſiſtance from the garriſon of Oſwego: but by this time the rivulets were ſo ſwelled by the rain, that it was found impracticable to purſue the enemy through the woods and thickets.

Patten and his grenadiers accompanied the detachment to Oſwego, while Bradſtreet purſued his voyage to Schenectady; from whence he repaired to Albany, and communicated to general Abercrombie the intelligence he had received from the pri-

LORD LOUDOUN.

priſoners, importing, that a large body of the enemy were encamped on the eaſtern ſide of the lake Ontario, provided with artillery, and all other implements, to beſiege the fort of Oſwego. An. 1756.

In conſequence of this information, major-general Webb was ordered to hold himſelf in readineſs to march with one regiment to the relief of that garriſon; but, before they could be provided with neceſſaries, the earl of Loudon arrived at the head-quarters at Albany, on the twenty-ninth day of July. The army at this time is ſaid to have conſiſted of regular troops to the number of two thouſand ſix hundred, about ſeven thouſand provincials, ſuppoſed to be in readineſs to march from Fort William Henry, under the command of general Winſlow, over and above a conſiderable number of battoe-men at Albany and Schenectady. The garriſon at Oſwego amounted to fourteen hundred ſoldiers, beſides three hundred workmen and ſailors, either in the fort, or poſted in ſmall parties between the fort and a place called Burnet's field, to ſecure a ſafe paſſage through the country of the Six Nations, upon whoſe friendſhip there was no longer any reliance. By the beſt accounts received of the enemy's force, they had about three thouſand men at Crown Point and Ticonderago upon the lake Champlain: but their chief ſtrength was collected upon the banks of the lake Ontario, where their purpoſe undoubtedly was to reduce the Engliſh fort at Oſwego. The immediate object, therefore, of lord Loudon's attention was the relief of this place: but his deſign was ſtrenuouſly oppoſed by the province of New York, and other northern governments, who were much more intent upon

The earl of Loudon arrives at New York.

An. 1756. the reduction of Crown-Point, and the ſecurity of their own frontiers, which they apprehended was connected with this conqueſt. They inſiſted upon Winſlow's being joined by ſome regiments of regular troops before he ſhould march againſt this fortreſs; and ſtipulated, that a body of reſerve ſhould be detained at Albany, for the defence of that frontier, in caſe Winſlow ſhould fail in his enterprize, and be defeated. At length they agreed, that the regiment which Mr. Abercrombie had deſtined for that purpoſe, ſhould be detached to the relief of Oſwego; and on the twelfth day of Auguſt major-general Webb began his march with it from Albany: but on his arrival at the Carrying-place, between the Mohock's river and Wood's creek, he received the diſagreeable news that Oſwego was taken, and the garriſon made priſoners of war. Mr. Webb, apprehending himſelf in danger of being attacked by the beſieging army, began immediately to render the creek impaſſable, even to canoes, by felling trees, and throwing them into the ſtream; while the enemy, ignorant of his numbers, and apprehenſive of a like viſitation from him, took the very ſame method of preventing his approach: in conſequence of this apprehenſion, he was permitted to retire unmoleſted.

The loſs of the two ſmall forts, called Ontario and Oſwego, was a conſiderable national misfortune. They were erected on the ſouth ſide of the great lake Ontario, ſtanding on oppoſite ſides, at the mouth of the Onondago river, that diſcharges itſelf into the lake, and conſtituted a poſt of great importance, where veſſels had been built, to cruiſe upon the lake, which is a kind of inland ſea, and inter-

interrupt the commerce as well as the motions and designs of the enemy. The garriſon, as we have already obſerved, conſiſted of fourteen hundred men, chiefly militia and new-raiſed recruits, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Mercer, an officer of courage and experience: but the ſituation of the forts was very ill choſen; the materials moſtly timber, or logs of wood; the defences wretchedly contrived, and unfiniſhed; and, in a word, the place altogether untenable againſt any regular approach. Such were the forts which the enemy wiſely reſolved to reduce. Being under no apprehenſion for Crown-Point, they aſſembled a body of troops, conſiſting of thirteen hundred regulars, ſeventeen hundred Canadians, and a conſiderable number of Indian auxiliaries, under the command of the marquis de Montcalm, a vigilant and enterpriſing officer, to whom the conduct of the ſiege was intruſted by the marquis de Vaudrueil, governor and lieutenant-general of New France. The firſt ſtep taken by Montcalm was to block up Oſwego by water with two large armed veſſels, and poſt a ſtrong body of Canadians on the road between Albany and the forts, to cut off all communication of ſuccour and intelligence. In the mean time, he embarked his artillery and ſtores upon the lake, and landed them in the bay of Nixouri, the place of general rendezvous. At another creek, within half a league of Oſwego, he erected a battery for the protection of his veſſels; and on the twelfth day of Auguſt, at midnight, after his diſpoſitions had been made, he opened the trenches before Fort Ontario. The garriſon, having fired away all their ſhells and ammunition, ſpiked up the

An. 1756.

An. 1756. cannon, and, deſerting the fort, retired next day acroſs the river into Oſwego, which was even more expoſed than the other, eſpecially when the enemy had taken poſſeſſion of Ontario, from whence they immediately began to fire without intermiſſion. Colonel Mercer being, on the thirteenth, killed by a cannon-ball, the fort deſtitute of all cover, the officers divided in opinion, and the garriſon in confuſion, they next day demanded a capitulation, and ſurrendered priſoners of war, on condition, that they ſhould be exempted from plunder, conducted to Montreal, and treated with humanity. Theſe conditions, however, the marquis did not punctually obſerve. The Britiſh officers and ſoldiers were inſulted by the ſavage Indians, who robbed them of their cloaths and baggage, maſſacred ſeveral men as they ſtood defenceleſs on the parade, aſſaſſinated lieutenant De la Court as he lay wounded in his tent, under the protection of a French officer, and barbarouſly ſcalped all the ſick people in the hoſpital: finally, Montcalm, in direct violation of the articles, as well as in contempt of common humanity, delivered up above twenty men of the garriſon to the Indians, in lieu of the ſame number they had loſt during the ſiege; and, in all probability, theſe miſerable captives were put to death by thoſe barbarians with the moſt excruciating tortures, according to the execrable cuſtom of the country.

Oſwego reduced by the enemy.

Thoſe who countenance the perpetration of cruelties, at which human nature ſhudders with horror, ought to be branded as infamous to all poſterity. Such, however, are the trophies that, in the courſe of the American war, have diſtinguiſhed the ope-

rations of a people who pique themſelves upon politeneſs, and the virtues of humanity. An. 1756.

The priſoners taken at Oſwego, after having been thus barbarouſly treated, were conveyed in battoes to Montreal, where they had no reaſon to complain of their reception; and, before the end of the year, they were exchanged. The victors immediately demoliſhed the two forts (if they deſerved that denomination), in which they found one hundred and twenty-one pieces of artillery, fourteen mortars, with a great quantity of ammunition, warlike ſtores, and proviſion, beſides two ſloops and two hundred battoes, which likewiſe fell into their hands. Such an important magazine, depoſited in a place altogether indefenſible, and without the reach of immediate ſuccour, was a flagrant proof of egregious folly, temerity, and miſconduct.

Further proceedings in America.

The earl of Loudon, finding the ſeaſon too far advanced to admit of any enterprize againſt the enemy, exerted all his endeavours in making preparations for an early campaign in the ſpring, in ſecuring the frontiers of the Engliſh colonies, in forming an uniform plan of action, and promoting a ſpirit of harmony among the different governments, which had been long divided by jarring intereſts, and other ſources of diſſention.

Mean while, the forts Edward and William Henry were put in a proper poſture of defence, and ſecured with numerous garriſons; and the forces put into winter-quarters at Albany, where comfortable barracks were built for that purpoſe.

Fort

An. 1756. Fort Granville, on the confines of Penſylvania, an inconſiderable blockhouſe, was ſurpriſed by a party of French and Indians, who made the garriſon priſoners, conſiſting of two and twenty ſoldiers, with a few women and children. Theſe they loaded with flour and proviſion, and drove into captivity; but the fort they reduced to aſhes.

Many ſhocking murders were perpetrated upon defenceleſs people, without diſtinction of age or ſex, in different parts of the frontiers: but theſe outrages were in ſome meaſure ballanced by the advantages reſulting from a treaty of peace, which the governor of Penſylvania concluded with the Delaware Indians, a powerful tribe that dwell upon the river Saſquehanna, forming, as it were, a line along the ſouthern ſkirts of the province. At the ſame time the governor of Virginia ſecured the friendſhip and alliance of the Cherokees and Catawbas, two powerful nations adjoining to that colony, who were able to bring three thouſand fighting men into the field. All theſe circumſtances conſidered, Great Britain had reaſon to expect that the enſuing campaign would be vigorouſly proſecuted in America, eſpecially as a freſh reinforcement of troops, with a great ſupply of warlike ſtores, was ſent to that country in fourteen tranſports, under convoy of two ſhips of war, which ſailed from Cork in Ireland about the beginning of November.

Naval tranſactions in thatcountry. No action of great importance diſtinguiſhed the naval tranſactions of this year on the ſide of America. In the beginning of June captain Spry, who commanded a ſmall ſquadron, cruiſing off Louiſbourg, in the iſland of Cape Breton, took the Arc

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en Ceil, a French ſhip of fifty guns, having on board near ſix hundred men, with a large quantity of ſtores and proviſions for the garriſon. He likewiſe made prize of another French ſhip with ſeventy ſoldiers, two hundred barrels of powder, two large braſs mortars, and other ſtores of the like deſtination. An. 1756.

On the twenty-ſeventh day of July commodore Holmes, being in the ſame latitude, with two large ſhips and a couple of ſloops, engaged two French ſhips of the line and four frigates, and obliged them to ſheer off, after an obſtinate diſpute.

A great number of privateers were equipped in this country, as well as in the Weſt India iſlands belonging to the crown of Great Britain; and as theſe ſeas ſwarmed with French veſſels, their cruizes proved very advantageous to the adventurers.

Tranſactions in the Eaſt Indies.

Scenes of ſtill higher import were this year acted by the Britiſh arms in the Eaſt Indies. The ceſſation of hoſtilities between the Engliſh and French companies on the peninſula of Indus, though it encouraged Mr. Clive to viſit his native country, was not of long duration: for in a few months both ſides recommenced their operations, no longer as auxiliaries to the princes of the country, but as principals and rivals, both in arms and commerce. Major Laurence, who now enjoyed the chief command of the Engliſh forces, obtained divers advantages over the enemy; and proſecuted his ſucceſs with ſuch vigour, as, in all probability, would in a little time have terminated the war according to his own wiſh, when the progreſs of his arms was interrupted and ſuſpended by an unfortunate event

at

An. 1756. at Calcutta, the cauſe of which is not eaſily explained: for extraordinary pains have been taken to throw a veil over ſome tranſactions, from whence this calamity was immediately or remotely derived.

Siege of Calcutta by the viceroy of Bengal.

A negotiation was renewed between the Engliſh and French companies, when Suzajud-Douza, viceroy of Bengal, Bakar, and Orixa, taking umbrage at the refuſal of certain duties, to which he laid claim, being particularly incenſed at the Engliſh governor of Calcutta for having granted protection to one of his ſubjects whom he had outlawed, and moreover irritated by other practices of the company, which we cannot pretend to unfold, he levied a numerous army, and marching to Calcutta, inveſted the place, which was then in no poſture of defence. The governor, intimidated by the number and power of the enemy, abandoned the fort, and with ſome principal perſons reſiding in the ſettlement, took refuge on board a ſhip in the river, carrying along with them their moſt valuable effects and the books of the company. Thus the defence of the place devolved to Mr. Holwell, the ſecond in command, who with the aſſiſtance of a few gallant officers, and a very feeble garriſon, maintained it with uncommon courage and reſolution againſt ſeveral attacks, until he was overpowered by numbers, and the enemy had forced their way into the caſtle. Then he was obliged to ſubmit; and the ſuba, or viceroy, promiſed, on the word of a ſoldier, that no injury ſhould be done to him or his garriſon.

Nevertheleſs, they were all driven, to the number of one hundred and forty-ſix perſons of both ſexes, into a place called the black-hole priſon, a cube of about

about eighteen feet, walled up to the eaſtward and ſouthward, the only quarters from which they could expect the leaſt refreſhing air, and open to the weſtward by two windows ſtrongly barred with iron, through which there was no perceptible circulation. The humane reader will conceive with horror the miſerable ſituation to which they muſt have been reduced, when thus ſtewed up in a cloſe ſultry night under ſuch a climate as that of Bengal, eſpecially when he reflects that many of them were wounded, and all of them fatigued with hard duty. Tranſported with rage to find themſelves thus barbarouſly cooped up in a place where they muſt be expoſed to ſuffocation, thoſe hapleſs victims endeavoured to force open the door, that they might ruſh upon the ſwords of the barbarians by whom they were ſurrounded: but all their efforts were ineffectual; the door was made to open inwards, and being once ſhut upon them, the crowd preſſed upon it ſo ſtrongly as to render all their endeavours abortive: then they were overwhelmed with diſtraction and deſpair. Mr. Holwell, who had placed himſelf at one of the windows, accoſted a Jemmautdaar, or ſerjeant of the Indian guard, and having endeavoured to excite his compaſſion, by drawing a pathetic picture of their ſufferings, promiſed to gratify him with a thouſand rupees in the morning if he could find means to remove one half of them into a ſeparate apartment. The ſoldier, allured by the promiſe of ſuch a reward, aſſured him he would do his endeavour for their relief, and retired for that purpoſe; but in a few minutes returned, and told him that the ſuba, by whoſe order alone ſuch a ſtep could be taken, was aſleep, and

An. 1756.

Deplorable fate of thoſe who periſhed in the dungeon.

An. 1756. no perſon durſt diſturb his repoſe. By this time a profuſe ſweat had broke out on every individual, and this was attended with an inſatiable thirſt, which became the more intolerable as the body was drained of its moiſture. In vain thoſe miſerable objects ſtripped themſelves of their cloaths, ſquatted down on their hams, and fanned the air with their hats to produce a refreſhing undulation. Many were unable to riſe again from this poſture, but falling down were trod to death or ſuffocated. The dreadful ſymptom of thirſt was now accompanied with a difficulty of reſpiration, and every individual gaſped for breath. Their deſpair became outrageous: again they attempted to force the door, and provoke the guard to fire upon them by execration and abuſe. The cry of "Water! Water!" iſſued from every mouth. Even the Jemmautdaar was moved to compaſſion at their diſtreſs. He ordered his ſoldiers to bring ſome ſkins of water, which ſerved only to enrage the appetite and increaſe the general agitation. There was no other way of conveying it through the windows but by hats, and this was rendered ineffectual by the eagerneſs and tranſports of the wretched priſoners, who at ſight of it ſtruggled and raved even into fits of delirium. In conſequence of theſe conteſts, very little reached thoſe that ſtood neareſt the windows, while the reſt at the farther end of the priſon were totally excluded from all relief, and continued calling upon their friends for aſſiſtance, and conjuring them by all the tender ties of pity and affection. To thoſe who were indulged, it proved pernicious; for, inſtead of allaying their thirſt, it enraged their impatience for more. The confuſion

ſion became general and horrid: all was clamour and conteſt: thoſe who were at a diſtance endeavoured to force their paſſage to the window, and the weak were preſſed down to the ground, never to riſe again. The inhuman ruffians without, derived entertainment from their miſery: they ſupplied the priſoners with more water, and held up lights cloſe to the bars, that they might enjoy the inhuman pleaſure of ſeeing them fight for the baneful indulgence. Mr. Holwell, ſeeing all his particular friends lying dead around him, and trampled upon by the living, finding himſelf wedged up ſo cloſe as to be deprived of all motion, begged, as the laſt inſtance of their regard, that they would remove the preſſure, and allow him to retire from the window, that he might die in quiet. Even in thoſe dreadful circumſtances, which might be ſuppoſed to have levelled all diſtinction, the poor delirious wretches manifeſted a reſpect for his rank and character. They forthwith gave way, and he forced his paſſage into the center of the place, which was not crowded ſo much; becauſe, by this time, about one third of the number had periſhed, and lay in little compaſs on the floor, while the reſt ſtill crowded to both windows. He retired to a platform at the farther end of the room, and, lying down upon ſome of his dead friends, recommended his ſoul to heaven. Here his thirſt grew inſupportable: his difficulty in breathing increaſed, and he was ſeized with a ſtrong palpitation. Theſe violent ſymptoms, which he could not bear, urged him to make another effort; he forced his way back to the window, and cried aloud, "Water! for God's ſake!" He had been ſuppoſed already dead An. 1756.

An. 1756. dead by his wretched companions; but finding him ſtill alive, they exhibited another extraordinary proof of tenderneſs and regard to his perſon: "Give him water," they cried; nor would one of them attempt to touch it until he had drank. He now breathed more freely, and the palpitation ceaſed: but finding himſelf ſtill more thirſty after drinking, he abſtained from water, and moiſtened his mouth from time to time by ſucking the perſpiration from his ſhirt-ſleeves *. The miſerable priſoners, perceiving that water rather aggravated than relieved their diſtreſs, grew clamorous for air, and repeated their inſults to the guard, loading the ſuba and his governor with the moſt virulent reproach. From railing, they had recourſe to prayer, beſeeching heaven to put an end to their miſery. They now began to drop on all hands; but then a ſteam aroſe from the living, and the dead, as pungent and volatile as ſpirit of hartſhorn; ſo that all who could not approach the windows were ſuffocated. Mr. Holwell, being weary of life, retired once more to the platform, and ſtretched himſelf by the reverend Mr. Jervas Bellamy, who, together with his ſon, a lieutenant, lay dead in each other's embrace. In this ſituation he was ſoon deprived of ſenſe, and lay to all appearance dead till day broke, when his body was diſcovered, and removed by his ſurviving friends to one of the windows, where the freſh air revived him, and he was reſtored to his ſight and ſenſes.

* In his deſpair of obtaining water, this unhappy gentleman had attempted to drink his own urine; but found it intolerably bitter; whereas the moiſture that flowed from the pores of his body was ſoft, pleaſant, and refreſhing.

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The ſuba, at laſt, being informed that the greater part of the priſoners were ſuffocated, inquired if the chief was alive; and being anſwered in the affirmative, ſent an order for their immediate releaſe, when no more than twenty-three ſurvived of an hundred and forty-ſix who had entered alive. An. 1756.

Nor was the late deliverance, even of theſe few, owing to any ſentiment of compaſſion in the viceroy. He had received intimation, that there was a conſiderable treaſure ſecreted in the fort, and that Mr. Holwell knew the place where it was depoſited. That gentleman, who, with his ſurviving companions, had been ſeized with a putrid fever, immediately upon their releaſe, was dragged in that condition before the inhuman ſuba, who queſtioned him about the treaſure, which exiſted no where but in his own imagination; and would give no credit to his proteſtations, when he ſolemnly declared he knew of no ſuch depoſit. Mr. Holwell and three of his friends were loaded with fetters, and conveyed three miles to the Indian camp, where they lay all night, expoſed to a ſevere rain: next morning they were brought back to town, ſtill manacled, under the ſcorching beams of a ſun intenſely hot; and muſt infallibly have expired, had not nature expelled the fever in large painful boils, that covered almoſt the whole body. In this piteous condition they were embarked in an open boat for Muxadabad, the capital of Bengal, and underwent ſuch cruel treatment and miſery in their paſſage, as would ſhock the humane reader, ſhould he peruſe the particulars. At Muxadabad they were led through the city in chains, as a ſpectacle to the inhabitants, lodged in an open ſtable, and

Additional cruelties exerciſed on Mr. Holwell.

An. 1756. treated for ſome days as the worſt of criminals. At length the ſuba's grandmother interpoſed her mediation in their behalf; and as that prince was by this time convinced that there was no treaſure concealed at Calcutta, he ordered them to be ſet at liberty. When ſome of his ſycophants oppoſed this indulgence, repreſenting that Mr. Holwell had ſtill enough left to pay a conſiderable ranſom, he replied with ſome marks of compunction and generoſity, "If he has any thing left, let him keep it: his ſufferings have been great: he ſhall have his liberty." Mr. Holwell and his friends were no ſooner unfettered, than they took water for the Dutch Tankſall or mint, in the neighhourhood of the city, where they were received with great tenderneſs and humanity. The reader, we hope, will excuſe us for having thus particularized a tranſaction ſo intereſting and extraordinary in all its circumſtances.

By the reduction of Calcutta, the Engliſh Eaſt-India company's affairs were ſo much embroiled in that part of the world, that perhaps nothing could have retrieved them but the interpoſition of a national force and the good fortune of a Clive, whoſe enterprizes were always crowned with ſucceſs. In conſequence of the company's repreſentations to the government, a ſmall ſquadron of large ſhips was ſent to the Eaſt-Indies, under the command of admiral Watſon; and in the courſe of this year arrived at Fort St. David's. The governor of that fortreſs having received intelligence that Tullagee Angria, a piratical prince in the neighbourhood of Bombay, was on the eve of concluding a treaty with the nation of the Marahattas, which might prove

prove prejudicial to the intereſts of the Engliſh company; a reſolution was taken to drive him from his reſidence at Geriah, which was well fortified, and annihilate his power, which was formidable to all the trading ſhips of Europe: for he maintained a conſiderable number of armed gallies called grabs, with which he often attacked the largeſt ſhips, when they happened to be becalmed on that part of the coaſt of Malabar. He was in the fourth generation from the firſt freebooter, who rendered himſelf independent, and lived like a ſovereign prince poſſeſſed of extenſive territories. The undertaking againſt Angria was originally concerted with the Marahattas, who likewiſe equipped an armament both by ſea and land againſt Geriah; but they acted entirely on their own ſcore: and in the reduction of the place gave no manner of aſſiſtance to the Engliſh. An. 1756. Reſolution taken againſt Angria.

Admiral Watſon ſailed from the coaſt of Coromandel to Bombay, where his ſquadron was cleaned and refitted; and having procured proper intelligence with reſpect to the harbour and fort of Geriah, determined, with the advice of a council of war to proceed on the expedition without delay. Being joined by a diviſion of ſhips, fitted out at the company's expence, having on board a body of troops commanded by colonel Clive, he ſailed on the ſeventh day of February, and found in the neighbourhood of Geriah the Marahatta fleet, conſiſting of four grabs and forty ſmaller veſſels, called gallivats, lying to the northward of the place, in a creek called Rajipore; and a land-army of horſe and foot, amounting to ſeven or eight thouſand men, the whole commanded by Rhamagee Punt,

An. 1756. who had already taken one ſmall fort, and was actually treating about the ſurrender of Geriah. Angria himſelf had quitted the place; but his wife and family remained under the protection of his brother-in-law; who, being ſummoned to ſurrender, by a meſſage from the admiral, replied, that he would defend the place to the laſt extremity. In conſequence of this refuſal the whole Engliſh fleet, in two diviſions, ſailed on the twelfth day of February into the harbour, and ſuſtained a warm fire from the enemy's batteries as they paſſed, as well as from the grabs poſted in the harbour for this purpoſe: this, however, was ſoon ſilenced after the ſhips were brought to their ſtations, ſo as to return the ſalutation. Between the hours of four and five in the afternoon, a ſhell being thrown into one of Angria's armed veſſels, ſet her on fire; and the flames communicating to the reſt, they were all deſtroyed: between ſix and ſeven the fort was ſet on fire by another ſhell; and ſoon after the firing ceaſed on both ſides. The admiral ſuſpecting that the governor of the place would ſurrender it to the Marahattas rather than to the Engliſh, diſembarked all the trooops under Mr. Clive, that he might be at hand in caſe of emergency to take poſſeſſion. In the mean time the fort was bombarded: the line of battle ſhips were warped near enough to batter in breach; and then the admiral ſent an officer with a flag of truce to the governor, requiring him to ſurrender. His propoſal being again rejected, the Engliſh ſhips renewed their fire next day with redoubled vigour. About one o'clock the magazine of the fort blew up, and at four the garriſon hung out a white flag for capitulation.

lation. The parley that enſued, proving ineffectual, the engagement began again, and continued till fifteen minutes after five; when the white flag was again diſplayed, and now the governor ſubmitted to the terms which were impoſed. Angria's flag was immediately hauled down; and two Engliſh captains taking poſſeſſion of the fort with a detachment, forthwith hoiſted the Britiſh enſign. In this place, which was reduced with very inconſiderable loſs, the conquerors found above two hundred cannon, ſix braſs mortars, a large quantity of ammunition, with money and effects to the value of one hundred and thirty thouſand pounds. The fleet which was deſtroyed, conſiſted of eight grabs, one ſhip finiſhed, two upon the ſtocks, and a good number of gallivats. Among the priſoners the admiral found Angria's wife, children, and mother, towards whom he demeaned himſelf with great humanity. Three hundred European ſoldiers, and as many ſipoys were left to guard the fort; and four of the company's armed veſſels remained in the harbour for the defence of the place, which was extremely well ſituated for commerce *.

An. 1756.

His fort of Geriah attacked and taken by admiral Watſon and Mr. Clive.

The admiral and Mr. Clive ſailed back to Madraſs in triumph, and there another plan was

* When the admiral entered their apartment, the whole family ſhedding floods of tears fell with their faces to the ground; from which being raiſed, the mother of Angria told him, in a piteous tone, the people had no king, ſhe no ſon, her daughter no huſband, their children no father. The admiral replying, "they muſt look upon him as their father and their friend;" the youngeſt boy, about ſix years of age, ſeized him by the hand, and ſobbing exclaimed, "then you ſhall be my father." Mr. Watſon was ſo affected with this pathetic addreſs, that the tears trickled down his cheeks, while he aſſured them they might depend upon his protection and friendſhip.

An. 1756. formed for reſtoring the company's affairs upon the Ganges; recovering Calcutta; and taking vengeance on the cruel viceroy of Bengal. In October they ſet ſail again for the bottom of the bay; and about the beginning of December arrived at Balaſore in the kingdom of Bengal. Having croſſed the Braces, they proceeded up the river Ganges as far as Falta, where they found governor Drake and the other perſons who had eſcaped on board of the ſhips when Calcutta was inveſted. Colonel Clive was diſembarked with his forces to attack the fort of Buſbudgia by land, while the admiral battered it by ſea: but the place being ill provided with cannon, did not hold out above an hour after the firing began. This conqueſt being atchieved at a very eaſy purchaſe, two of the great ſhips anchored between Tanna fort and a battery on the other ſide of the river, which were abandoned before one ſhot was diſcharged againſt either; thus the paſſage was laid open to Calcutta, the reduction of which we ſhall record among the tranſactions of the enſuing year.

Their ſubſequent proceedings in the river Ganges.

Having thus, to the beſt of our power, given a faithful and exact detail of every material event, in which Great Britain was concerned either at home, or in her ſettlements abroad, during the greateſt part of the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſix, we ſhall now return to Europe, and endeavour to explain the beginning of a bloody war in Germany, which now ſeems to have become the chief object of the Britiſh councils. On the eve of a rupture between France and England, it was natural for his B—— m—— to provide for the ſafety of his e——l d——s, the only quarter by

Motives of the war in Germany.

by which he was at all acceſſible to the efforts of the enemy, who he foreſaw would not fail to annoy him through that avenue. He at that time ſtood upon indifferent terms with the k—— of P——, who was conſidered as a partizan and ally of France; and he knew that the houſe of Auſtria alone would not be ſufficient to ſupport him againſt two ſuch powerful antagoniſts. In this emergency he had recourſe to the empreſs of Ruſſia, who, in conſequence of a large ſubſidy granted by England, engaged to furniſh a ſtrong body of forces for the defence of H——r. His P——n majeſty, ſtartled at the conditions of this treaty, took an opportunity to declare that he would not ſuffer foreign forces of any nation to enter the empire, either as principals or auxiliaries: a declaration which probably flowed from a jealouſy and averſion he had conceived to the court of Peterſburg, as well as to a reſolution he had formed of ſtriking ſome great ſtroke in Germany, without any riſque of being reſtricted or controuled. He knew he ſhould give umbrage to the French king, who had already made preparations for penetrating into Weſtphalia: but he took it for granted he ſhould be able to exchange his connexions with France for an alliance with Great Britain, which would be much leſs troubleſome, and much more productive of advantage: indeed ſuch an alliance was the neceſſary conſequence of his declaration. Had his B——c m——y made a requiſition of the Ruſſian auxiliaries, he muſt have expoſed himſelf to the reſentment of a warlike monarch, that hovered on the ſkirts of his electorate at the head of one hundred and fifty thouſand men, and could An. 1756.

An. 1756. have ſubdued the whole country in one week: and if he forbore to avail himſelf of the treaty with the Czarina, he did not know how ſoon the k——g of P——a might be reconciled to his moſt Chriſtian majeſty's deſign of invaſion. As for the Empreſs queen, her attention was engroſſed by ſchemes for her intereſt or preſervation; and her hands ſo full that ſhe either could not, or would not fulfil the engagements ſhe had contracted with her former and firmeſt allies. In theſe circumſtances the k——g of E——d ſought and obtained the alliance of P——a, which, to the beſt of our comprehenſion, has intailed upon G— B——n the enormous burthen of extravagant ſubſidies, together with the intolerable expence of a continental war, without being productive of one advantage either poſitive or negative to E——d or H——r. On the contrary, this connexion threw the Empreſs queen into the arms of France, whoſe friendſhip ſhe has bought at the expence of the Barrier in the Netherlands, acquired with infinite labour, by the blood and treaſure of the maritime powers: it has given birth to a confederacy of deſpotic princes; ſufficient, if their joint force was fully exerted, to overthrow the liberties of all the free ſtates in Europe; and, after all, H——r has been over-run, and ſubdued by the enemy; and the k——g of P—a put to the ban of the Empire. All theſe conſequences are, we apprehend, fairly deducible from the reſolution which his P——n m———y took, at this juncture, to precipitate a war with the houſe of Auſtria.

The apparent motives that prompted him to this meaſure, we ſhall preſently explain. In the mean time,

time the defenſive treaty between the Empreſs-queen and France was no ſooner ratified, than the Czarina was invited to accede to the alliance, and a private miniſter ſent from Paris to Petersburg to negotiate the conditions of this acceſſion, which the empreſs of Ruſſia accordingly embraced: a circumſtance ſo agreeable to the court of Verſailles, that the marquis de L'Hopital was immediately appointed ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the court of Ruſſia. Applications were likewiſe made to the courts of Madrid and Turin, ſolliciting their concurrence; but their Catholic and Sardinian majeſties wiſely reſolved to obſerve a neutrality.

An. 1756. Cloſe connexion between the courts of Verſailles and Peterſburg.

At the ſame time intrigues were begun by the French emiſſaries in the ſenate of Sweden, in order to kindle up a war between that nation and Pruſſia; and their endeavours ſucceeded in the ſequel, even contrary to the inclination of their ſovereign. At preſent a plot was diſcovered for altering the form of government, by increaſing the power of the crown; and ſeveral perſons of rank, being convicted upon trial, were beheaded as principals in this conſpiracy. Although it did not appear that the king or queen was at all concerned in the ſcheme, his Swediſh majeſty thought himſelf ſo hardly treated by the dyet, that he threatened to reſign his royalty and retire into his own hereditary dominions. This deſign was extremely diſagreeable to the people in general, who eſpouſed his cauſe in oppoſition to the dyet, by whom they conceived themſelves more oppreſſed than they ſhould have been under an unlimited monarchy: an opinion, which, in all probability, will one day pro-

Conſpiracy in Sweden.

An. 1756. produce ſuch a revolution in the Swediſh government as hath happened in that of Denmark, where the power was transferred from the nobles to the crown, by the concurrence of the clergy and the people.

Meaſures taken by the king of Pruſſia and elector of Hanover.

The king of Pruſſia, alarmed at theſe formidable alliances, ordered all his forces to be completed, and held in readineſs to march at the firſt notice; and a report was induſtriouſly circulated, that by a ſecret article in the late treaty between France and the houſe of Auſtria, theſe two powers had obliged themſelves to deſtroy the proteſtant religion, and overturn the freedom of the Empire, by a forced election of a king of the Romans.

The cry of religion was no impolitic meaſure; but it no longer produced the ſame effect as in times paſt. Religion was made a pretence on both ſides: for the partizans of the Empreſs-queen inſinuated, on all occaſions, that the ruin of the catholic faith in Germany was the principal object of the new alliance between the kings of Great Britain and Pruſſia. It was in conſequence of ſuch ſuggeſtions, that his Britannic majeſty ordered his electoral miniſter at the dyet to deliver a memorial to all the miniſters at Ratiſbon, expreſſing his ſurprize to find the treaty he had concluded with the king of Pruſſia, induſtriouſly repreſented as a ground of apprehenſion and umbrage, eſpecially for religion. He obſerved, that as France had made open diſpoſitions for invading the electorate of Hanover, and diſturbing the peace of the Empire; that as he had been denied, by the Empreſs-queen, the ſuccours ſtipulated in treaties of alliance; and as he was refuſed aſſiſtance by certain ſtates of the

the Empire, who even ſeemed diſpoſed to favour ſuch a diverſion; he had, in order to provide for the ſecurity of his own dominions, to eſtabliſh peace and tranquillity in the Empire, and maintain its ſyſtem and privileges, without any prejudice to religion, concluded a defenſive treaty with the king of Pruſſia: that, by this inſtance of patriotic zeal for the welfare of Germany, he had done an eſſential ſervice to the Empreſs-queen, and performed the part which the head of the Empire, in dignity and duty, ought to have acted: that time would demonſtrate how little it was the intereſt of the Empreſs-queen to engage in a ſtrict alliance with a foreign power, which, for upwards of two centuries, had ravaged the principal provinces of the Empire, maintained repeated wars againſt the archducal houſe of Auſtria, and always endeavoured, as it ſuited her views, to excite diſtruſt and diſſenſion among the princes and ſtates that compoſe the Germanic body. An. 1756.

The court of Vienna formed two conſiderable armies in Bohemia and Moravia; yet pretended that they had nothing in view but ſelf-preſervation, and ſolemnly diſclaimed both the ſecret article, and the deſign which had been laid to their charge. His moſt Chriſtian majeſty declared, by his miniſter at Berlin, that he had no other intention but to maintain the public tranquillity of Europe; and this being the ſole end of all his meaſures, he beheld with ſurprize the preparations and armaments of certain potentates: that, whatever might be the view with which they were made, he was diſpoſed to make uſe of the power which God had put into his hands, not only to maintain the public peace of Eu-

An. 1756. Europe againſt all who ſhould attempt to diſturb it; but alſo to employ all his forces, agreeable to his engagements, for the aſſiſtance of his ally, in caſe her dominions ſhould be attacked: finally, that he would act in the ſame manner in behalf of all the other powers with whom he was in alliance.

This intimation made very little impreſſion upon the king of Pruſſia, who had already formed his plan, and was determined to execute his purpoſe. What his original plan might have been, we ſhall not pretend to diſcloſe; nor do we believe he imparted it to any confident or ally. It muſt be confeſſed, however, that the intrigues of the court of Vienna, furniſhed him with a ſpecious pretence for drawing the ſword and commencing hoſtilities. The empreſs-queen had ſome reaſon to be jealous of ſuch a formidable neighbour. She remembered his irruption into Bohemia, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-four, at a time when ſhe thought that country, and all her other dominions ſecure from his invaſion by the treaty of Breſlau, which ſhe had in no particular contravened. She caballed againſt him in different courts of Europe: ſhe concluded a treaty with the Czarina, which, though ſeemingly defenſive implied an intention of making conqueſts upon this monarch: ſhe endeavoured to engage the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, as a contracting power in this confederacy; and, if he had not been afraid of a ſudden viſit from his neighbour of Pruſſia, it cannot be ſuppoſed but he would have been pleaſed to contribute to the humiliation of a prince who had once before, without the leaſt provocation, driven him

The court of Vienna endeavours to fruſtrate his deſigns.

him from his dominions, taken poſſeſſion of his capital, routed his troops, and obliged him to pay a million of crowns to indemnify him for the expence of this expedition: but he carefully avoided taking ſuch a ſtep as might expoſe him to another invaſion, and even refuſed to accede to the treaty of Peterſburg, though it was expreſly defenſive; the Caſus Fœderis being his Pruſſian majeſty's attacking either of the contracting parties. It appears, however, that the count de Bruhl, prime miniſter and favourite of the king of Poland, had in conjunction with ſome of the Auſtrian miniſters, carried on certain ſcandalous intrigues, in order to embroil the king of Pruſſia with the empreſs of Ruſſia, between whom a miſunderſtanding had long ſubſiſted. An. 1756.

His Pruſſian majeſty demands an explanation from the Empreſs-queen.

His Pruſſian majeſty, perceiving the military preparations of the court of Vienna, and having obtained intelligence of their ſecret negotiations with different powers in Europe, ordered M. de Klingraafe, his miniſter at the Imperial court, to demand whether all thoſe preparations of war, on the frontiers of Sileſia, were deſigned againſt him, and what were the intentions of her Imperial majeſty? To this demand the Empreſs replied, That in the preſent juncture ſhe had found it neceſſary to make armaments, as well for her own defence as for that of her allies; but that they did not tend to the prejudice of any perſon or ſtate whatever. The king, far from being ſatisfied with this general anſwer, ſent freſh orders to Klingraafe to repreſent, That after the king had diſſembled, as long as he thought conſiſtent with his ſafety and honour, the bad deſigns imputed to the Empreſs would not

An. 1756. not ſuffer him longer to diſguiſe his ſentiments; that he was acquainted with the offenſive projects, which the two courts had formed at Peterſburgh; that he knew they had engaged to attack him ſuddenly with an army of two hundred thouſand men; a deſign which would have been executed in the ſpring of the year, had not the Ruſſian forces wanted recruits, their fleet mariners, and Livonia a ſufficient quantity of corn for their ſupport; that he conſtituted the Empreſs arbiter of peace or war: if ſhe deſired the former, he required a clear and formal declaration, or poſitive aſſurance, that ſhe had no intention to attack him, either this year or the next; but he ſhould look upon an ambiguous anſwer as a declaration of war; and he called heaven to witneſs, that the Empreſs alone would be guilty of the innocent blood that ſhould be ſpilt, and all the diſmal conſequences that would attend the commiſſion of hoſtilities.

A declaration of this nature might have provoked a leſs haughty court than that of Vienna, and, indeed, ſeems to have been calculated on purpoſe to exaſperate the pride of her Imperial majeſty, whoſe anſwer he ſoon received to this effect:

Her anſwer. That his majeſty the king of Pruſſia had already been employed, for ſome time, in all kinds of the moſt conſiderable preparations of war, and the moſt diſquieting, with regard to the public tranquillity, when he thought fit to demand explanations of her majeſty, touching the military diſpoſitions that were making in her dominions; diſpoſitions on which ſhe had not reſolved, till after the preparations of his Pruſſian majeſty had been made; that though her majeſty might have declined explaining herſelf

ſelf on thoſe ſubjects which required no explanation, ſhe had been pleaſed to declare, with her own mouth, to Mr. de Klingraafe, that the critical ſtate of public affairs rendered the meaſures ſhe was taking abſolutely neceſſary for her own ſafety, and that of her allies; but that, in other reſpects, they tended to the prejudice of no perſon whatſoever: that her Imperial majeſty had undoubtedly a right to form what judgment ſhe pleaſed on the circumſtances of the times; and likewiſe, that it belonged to none but herſelf to eſtimate her own danger: that her declaration was ſo clear, ſhe never imagined it could be thought otherwiſe: that being accuſtomed to receive, as well as to practiſe the decorums which ſovereigns owe to each other, ſhe could not hear without aſtoniſhment and ſenſibility the contents of the memorial now preſented by Mr. de Klingraafe; ſo extraordinary, both in the matter and expreſſions, that ſhe would find herſelf under a neceſſity of tranſgreſſing the bounds of that moderation which ſhe had preſcribed to herſelf, were ſhe to anſwer the whole of its contents: nevertheleſs, ſhe thought proper to declare, that the information communicated to his Pruſſian majeſty of an offenſive alliance againſt him, ſubſiſting between herſelf and the empreſs of Ruſſia, together with the circumſtances and pretended ſtipulations of that alliance, were abſolutely falſe and forged; for no ſuch treaty did exiſt, or ever had exiſted. She concluded with obſerving, that this declaration would enable all Europe to judge of what weight and quality thoſe dreadful events were which Klingraafe's memorial announced; and to per- An. 1756.

An. 1756. perceive that, in any caſe, they could not be imputed to her Imperial majeſty.

This anſwer, though ſeemingly explicit, was not deemed ſufficiently categorical, or at leaſt not ſuitable to the purpoſes of the king of Pruſſia, who, by his reſident at Vienna, once more declared, that if the Empreſs-queen would ſign a poſitive aſſurance that ſhe would not attack his Pruſſian majeſty either this year or the next, he would directly withdraw his troops, and let things be reſtored to their former footing. This demand was evaded, on pretence that ſuch an aſſurance could not be more binding than the ſolemn treaty by which he was already ſecured; a treaty which the Empreſs-queen had no intention to violate. But before an anſwer could be delivered, the king had actually invaded Saxony, and publiſhed his declaration againſt the court of Vienna. The court of Vienna believing that the king of Pruſſia was bent upon employing his arms ſomewhere; being piqued at the dictatorial manner in which his demands were conveyed; unwilling to lay themſelves under farther reſtrictions; apprehenſive of giving umbrage to their allies; and confident of having provided for their own ſecurity; reſolved to run the riſque of his reſentment, not without hope of being indemnified in the courſe of the war for that part of Sileſia which the queen had been obliged to cede in the treaty of Breſlau.

The Pruſſian army enters Saxony, and publiſhes a manifeſto.

Both ſides being thus prepared, and perhaps equally eager for action, the king of Pruſſia would no longer ſuſpend his operations; and the ſtorm firſt fell upon Saxony. He reſolved to penetrate through this country into Bohemia, and even to take

take poſſeſſion of it as a frontier; as well as for the convenience of ingreſs and egreſs to, and from the Auſtrian dominions. Beſides, he had reaſon to believe the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, was connected with the Czarina and the Empreſs-queen: therefore he thought it would be impolitic to leave that prince in any condition to give him the leaſt diſturbance. His army entered the Saxon territory towards the latter end of Auguſt; when he publiſhed a declaration, importing that the unjuſt conduct and dangerous views of the court of Vienna againſt his majeſty's dominions, laid him under the neceſſity of taking proper meaſures for protecting his territories and ſubjects: that for this purpoſe he could not forbear taking the diſagreeable reſolution to enter with his troops the hereditary dominions of his majeſty the king of Poland, elector of Saxony: but he proteſted before God and man, that on account of his perſonal eſteem and friendſhip for that prince, he would not have proceeded to this extremity, had he not been forced to it by the laws of war, the fatality of the preſent conjuncture, and the neceſſity of providing for the defence and ſecurity of his ſubjects. He reminded the public of the tenderneſs with which he had treated the elector of Saxony, during the campaign of the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-four; and of the bad conſequences reſulting to that monarch from his engagements with the enemies of Pruſſia. He declared that the apprehenſions of being expoſed again to ſuch enterprizes, had obliged him to take thoſe precautions which prudence dictated: but he proteſted, in the moſt ſolemn manner, that he had An. 1756.

An. 1756. no hoſtile views againſt his Poliſh majeſty, or his dominions; that his troops did not enter Saxony as enemies, and he had taken care that they ſhould obſerve the beſt order and the moſt exact diſcipline: that he deſired nothing more ardently than the happy minute that ſhould procure him the ſatisfaction of reſtoring to his Poliſh majeſty his hereditary dominions, which he had ſeized only as a ſacred depoſitum.

By his miniſter at Dreſden, he had demanded a free paſſage for his forces through the Saxon dominions; and this the king of Poland was ready to grant with reaſonable limitations to be ſettled by commiſſaries appointed for that purpoſe. But theſe were formalities which did not at all ſuit with his Pruſſian majeſty's diſpoſition or deſign. Even before this requiſition was made, a body of his troops, amounting to fifteen thouſand, under the command of prince Ferdinand, brother to the Duke of Brunſwic, took poſſeſſion of Leipſic on the twentieth day of September. Here he publiſhed a declaration, ſignifying that it was his Pruſſian majeſty's intention to conſider and defend the inhabitants of that electorate as if they were his own ſubjects; and that he had given preciſe orders to his troops to obſerve the moſt exact diſcipline. As the firſt mark of his affection, he ordered them to provide the army with all ſorts of proviſion, according to a certain rate, on pain of military execution. That ſame evening notice was given to the corporation of merchants, that their deputies ſhould pay all taxes and cuſtoms to the king of Pruſſia: then he took poſſeſſion of the cuſtom-houſe and exciſe-office,

Prince Ferdinand takes poſſeſſion of Leipſic.

office, and ordered the magazines of corn and meal to be opened for the uſe of his ſoldiers. An. 1756.

The king of Poland, apprehenſive of ſuch a viſitation, had ordered all the troops of his electorate to leave their quarters, and aſſemble in a ſtrong camp marked out for them between Pirna and Konigſtien, which was intrenched, and provided with a numerous train of artillery. Thither the king of Poland repaired with his two ſons Xaverius and Charles; but the queen and the reſt of the royal family remained at Dreſden. Of this capital his Pruſſian majeſty, with the bulk of his army, took poſſeſſion on the eighth day of September, when he was viſited by the lord Stormont, the Engliſh ambaſſador at that court, accompanied by count Salmour, a Saxon miniſter, who, in his maſter's name, propoſed a neutrality. The king of Pruſſia profeſſed himſelf extremely well pleaſed with the propoſal; and, as the moſt convincing proof of his neutrality, deſired the king of Poland would ſeparate his army, by ordering his troops to return to their former quarters. His Poliſh majeſty did not like to be ſo tutored in his own dominions: he depended for his own ſafety more upon the valour and attachment of his troops thus aſſembled, than upon the friendſhip of a prince who had invaded his dominions, and ſequeſtered his revenue, without provocation; and he truſted too much to the ſituation of his camp at Pirna, which was deemed impregnable. In the mean time, the king of Pruſſia fixed his head-quarters at Seidlitz, about half a German league diſtant from Pirna, and poſted his army in ſuch a manner as to be able to intercept all convoys of proviſion deſigned for

The king of Pruſſia enters Dreſden, andblocks up the king of Poland with his troops at Pirna.

An. 1756. the Saxon camp: his forces extended on the right towards the frontiers of Bohemia, and the vanguard actually ſeized the paſſes that lead to the circles of Satzer and Leutmeritz in that kingdom; while prince Ferdinand of Brunſwic marched with a body of troops along the Elbe, and took poſt at this laſt place without oppoſition. At the ſame time the king covered his own dominions by aſſembling two conſiderable bodies in Upper and Lower Sileſia, which occupied the paſſes that communicate with the circles of Buntzlau and Koningſgratz.

Hoſtilities were commenced on the thirteenth day of September by a detachment of Pruſſian huſſars, who attacked an Auſtrian eſcorte to a convoy of proviſions, deſigned for the Saxon camp; and having routed them, carried off a conſiderable number of loaded waggons. The magazines at Dreſden were filled with an immenſe quantity of proviſion and forage for the Pruſſian army, and the bakers were ordered to prepare a vaſt quantity of bread, for which purpoſe thirty new ovens were erected.

When the king of Pruſſia firſt arrived at Dreſden, he lodged at the houſe of the counteſs Moczinſka; and gave orders that the queen and royal family of Poland ſhould be treated with all due veneration and reſpect*: even while the Saxon camp

* His majeſty ſeems to have abated of this reſpect in the ſequel, if we may believe the aſſertions of his Poliſh majeſty's queen and the court of Vienna, who affirmed, that centinels were poſted within the palace where the queen and royal family reſided; as alſo at the door of the ſecret cabinet, where the papers relating to foreign tranſactions were

camp was blocked up on every ſide, he ſometimes permitted a waggon, loaded with freſh proviſion and game, to paſs unmoleſted for the uſe of his Poliſh majeſty. An. 1756.

His main body penetrates into Bohemia;

During theſe tranſactions the greateſt part of the Pruſſian army advanced into Bohemia, under the command of the veldt marechal Keith ‡, who reduced the town and palace of Tetchen, took poſſeſſion of all the paſſes, and encamped near Auſſig, a ſmall town in Bohemia, at no great diſ-

were depoſited. The keys of this cabinet were ſeized, and all the writings demanded. The whole Saxon miniſtry were diſcharged from their reſpective employments, and a new commiſſion was eſtabliſhed by the king of Pruſſia for the adminiſtration of affairs in general. When the queen intreated this prince to remove the centinels poſted within the palace, and contiguous paſſages, agreeable to his aſſurances that all due reſpect ſhould be obſerved towards the royal family, the king ordered the guards to be doubled, and ſent an officer to demand of her majeſty the keys of the ſecret cabinet. The queen obtained this officer's conſent, that the doors ſhould be ſealed up; but afterwards he returned with orders to break them open: then her majeſty, placing herſelf before the door, ſaid, ſhe truſted ſo much to the promiſe of the king of Pruſſia, that ſhe could not believe he had given ſuch orders. The officer declaring that his orders were poſitive, and that he durſt not diſobey them, ſhe continued in the ſame place, declaring, that if violence was to be uſed, he muſt begin with her. The officer returning to acquaint the king with what had paſſed, her majeſty conjured the miniſters of Pruſſia and England to remind his majeſty of his promiſe; but her repreſentations had no effect: the officer returned with freſh orders to uſe force, in ſpite of the oppoſition ſhe might make againſt it in perſon. The queen, finding herſelf in danger of her life, at length withdrew: the doors were forced, the cheſts broke open, and all the papers ſeized.

‡ Brother to the earl-mareſchal of Scotland, a gentleman who had ſignalized himſelf as a general in the Ruſſian army, and was accounted one of the beſt officers of his time; not more admired for his genius, than amiable in his diſpoſition.

An. 1756. tance from the Imperial army, amounting to fifty thouſand men, commanded by count Brown, an officer of Iriſh extract, who had often diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the field by his courage, vigilance, and conduct.

His Pruſſian majeſty, having left a conſiderable body of troops for the blockade of Pirna, aſſumed in perſon the command of marechal Keith's corps, and advanced to give battle to the enemy. On the twenty-ninth day of September he formed his troops in two columns, and in the evening arrived with his van at Welmina, from whence he ſaw the Auſtrian army poſted with its right at Lowoſchutz, and its left towards the Egra. Having occupied with ſix battalions a hollow way, and ſome riſing grounds, which commanded the town of Lowoſchutz, he remained all night under arms at Welmina; and on the firſt day of October, early in the morning, formed his whole army in order of battle; the firſt line, conſiſting of the infantry, occupying two hills, and a bottom betwixt them; the ſecond line being formed of ſome battalions, and the third compoſed of the whole cavalry. The Auſtrian general had taken poſſeſſion of Lowoſchutz with a great body of infantry, and placed a battery of cannon in the front of the town: he had formed his cavalry chequerwiſe, in a line between Lowoſchutz and the village of Sanſchitz; and poſted about two thouſand Croats and irregulars in the vineyards and avenues on his right. The morning was darkened with a thick fog, which vaniſhed about ſeven: then the Pruſſian cavalry advanced to attack the enemy's horſe; but received ſuch a fire from the irregulars, poſted in vineyards, and ditches,

and he fights the battle of Lowoſchutz.

ditches, as well as from a numerous artillery, that they were obliged to retire for protection to the rear of the Pruſſian infantry and cannon. There being formed, and led back to the charge, they made an impreſſion on the Auſtrian cavalry, and drove the irregulars and other bodies of infantry from the ditches, defiles, and vineyards which they poſſeſſed: but they ſuffered ſo ſeverely in this dangerous ſervice, that the king ordered them to reaſcend the hill, and take poſt again behind the infantry, from whence they no more advanced. In the mean time a furious cannonading was maintained on both ſides, with conſiderable effect. At length the left of the Pruſſian infantry was ordered to attack the town of Lowoſchutz in flank; but met with a very warm reception, and, in all likelihood, would have miſcarried, had not veldtmarechal Keith headed them in perſon: when he drew his ſword, and told them he would lead them on, he was given to underſtand, that all their powder and ſhot was exhauſted: he turned immediately to them with a chearful countenance, ſaid he was very glad they had no more ammunition, being well aſſured the enemy would not withſtand them at puſh of bayonet: ſo ſaying, he advanced at their head, and driving the Auſtrians from Lowoſchutz, ſet the ſuburbs on fire. Their infantry had been already obliged to quit the eminence on the right, and now their whole army retired to Budin, on the other ſide of the Egra. Some priſoners, colours, and pieces of cannon, were taken on both ſides; and the loſs of each might amount to two thouſand five hundred killed and wounded: ſo that, on the whole, it was a drawn battle, though An. 1756.

An. 1756. both generals claimed the victory. The detail of the action, publiſhed at Berlin, declares, that the king of Pruſſia not only gained the battle, but that ſame day eſtabliſhed his head-quarters at Lowoſchutz; whereas the Auſtrian gazette affirms, that the marechal count Brown obliged his Pruſſian majeſty to retire, and remained all night on the field of battle; but next day, finding his troops in want of water, he repaired to the camp of Budin. If the battle was at all deciſive, the advantage certainly fell to the Auſtrians; for his Pruſſian majeſty, who, in all probability, had hoped to winter at Prague, was obliged, by the oppoſition he met with, to reſign this plan, and retreat before winter into the electorate of Saxony.

The Pruſſian army having rejoined that body which had been left to block up the Saxons at Pirna, his Poliſh majeſty and his troops were reduced to ſuch extremity of want, that it became indiſpenſibly neceſſary either to attempt an eſcape, or ſurrender to the king of Pruſſia. The former part of the alternative was choſen, and the plan concerted with count Brown, the Auſtrian general, who, in order to facilitate the execution, advanced privately with a body of troops to Lichtendorf, near Schandau; but the junction could not be effected. On the fourteenth day of October the Saxons threw a bridge of boats over the Elbe near Konigſtein, to which caſtle they removed all their artillery: then ſtriking their tents in the night, paſſed the river undiſcovered by the enemy. They continued to retreat with all poſſible expedition; but, the roads were ſo bad, they made little progreſs. Next day, when part of them had advanced

vanced about half way up a hill oppoſite to Konigſtein, and the reſt were intangled in a narrow plain, where there was no room to act, they perceived that the Pruſſians were in poſſeſſion of all the paſſes, and found themſelves ſurrounded on every ſide, fainting with hunger and fatigue, and deſtitute of every convenience. An. 1756.

In this deplorable condition they remained, when the king of Poland, from the fortreſs of Konigſtein, ſent a letter to his general the veldt-marechal count Rutowſki, veſting him with full and diſcretionary power to ſurrender, or take ſuch other meaſures as he ſhould judge moſt conducive to the preſervation of the officers and ſoldiers *. By this time count Brown had retired to Budin, ſo that

* The letter was to the following effect:

Veldt-marechal count Rutowſki,

It is not without extreme ſorrow I underſtand the deplorable ſituation, which a chain of misfortunes has reſerved for you, the reſt of my generals, and my whole army: but we muſt acquieſce in the diſpenſations of Providence, and conſole ourſelves with the rectitude of our ſentiments and intentions. They would force me, it ſeems, as you give me to underſtand by major-general the baron de Dyherrn, to ſubmit to conditions the more ſevere, in proportion as the circumſtances are become more neceſſitous. I cannot hear them mentioned. I am a free monarch; ſuch I will live; ſuch I will die; and I will both live and die with honour. The fate of my army I leave wholly to your diſcretion. Let your council of war determine whether you muſt ſurrender priſoners of war, fall by the ſword, or die by famine. May your reſolutions, if poſſible, be conducted by humanity: whatever they may be, I have no longer any ſhare in them: and I declare you ſhall not be anſwerable for aught but one thing, namely, not to carry arms againſt me or my allies. I pray God may have you, Mr. Marechal, in his holy keeping. Given at Konigſtein the 14th of October, 1756.

Auguſtus Rex.

To the veldt-marechal the count Rutowſki.

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An. 1756. there was no choice left. A capitulation was demanded: but, in effect, the whole Saxon army was obliged to ſurrender at diſcretion; and the ſoldiers were afterwards, by compulſion, incorporated with the troops of Pruſſia.

Surrender of the Saxon army.

The king of Poland, being thus deprived of his electoral dominions, his troops, arms, artillery, and ammunition, thought it high time to provide for his own ſafety, and retired with all expedition to Poland. His Pruſſian majeſty cantoned his forces in the neighbourhood of Seidlitz, and along the Elbe towards Dreſden. His other army, which had entered Bohemia under the command of the count de Schwerin, retired to the confines of the county of Glatz, where they were diſtributed in quarters of cantonment; ſo that this ſhort campaign was finiſhed by the beginning of November.

King of Poland's memorial to the States General.

The king of Poland, in his diſtreſs, did not fail to implore the aſſiſtance and mediation of neutral powers. His miniſter at the Hague preſented a memorial to the States General, complaining, that the invaſion of Saxony was one of thoſe attacks againſt the law of nations, which, from the great reſpect due to this law, demanded the aſſiſtance of every power intereſted in the preſervation of its own liberty and independency. He obſerved, that, from the firſt glimpſe of miſunderſtanding between the courts of Vienna and Berlin, he had expreſly enjoined his miniſters at all the courts of Europe to declare, that it was his firm reſolution, in the preſent conjuncture of affairs, to obſerve the ſtricteſt neutrality. He repreſented that a free and neutral ſtate had been, in the midſt of peace, invaded by an enemy who diſguiſed himſelf under

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the maſque of friendſhip, without alledging the leaſt complaint, or any pretenſion whatſoever; but founding himſelf ſolely on his own convenience, made himſelf maſter, by armed force, of all the cities and towns of the electorate, diſmantling ſome, and fortifying others: that he had diſarmed the burghers; carried off the magiſtrates as hoſtages for the payment of unjuſt and enormous contributions of proviſions and forage; ſeized the coffers, confiſcated the revenues of the electorate, broke open the arſenals, and tranſported the arms and artillery to his own town of Magdeburg; aboliſhed the privy-council, and, inſtead of the lawful government, eſtabliſhed a directory, which acknowledged no other law but his own arbitrary will. He gave them to underſtand, that all theſe proceedings were no other than preliminaries to the unheard-of treatment which was reſerved for a queen, whoſe virtues ought to have commanded reſpect, even from her enemies: that, from the hands of that auguſt princeſs, the archives of the ſtate were forced away by menaces and violences, notwithſtanding the ſecurity which her majeſty had promiſed herſelf under the protection of all laws, human and divine; and notwithſtanding the repeated aſſurances given by the king of Pruſſia, that not only her perſon, and the place of her reſidence, ſhould be abſolutely ſafe, but that even the Pruſſian garriſon ſhould be under her direction. He obſerved, that a prince who declared himſelf protector of the proteſtant religion had begun the war, by cruſhing the very ſtate to which that very religion owes its eſtabliſhment, and the preſervation of its moſt invaluable rights: that he had broke An. 1756.

An. 1756. broke through the moſt reſpectable laws which conſtitute the union of the Germanic body, under colour of a defence which the Empire ſtood in no need of, except againſt himſelf: that the king of Pruſſia, while he inſiſts on having entered Saxony as a friend, demands his army, the adminiſtration of his dominions, and, in a word, the ſacrifice of his whole electorate; and that the Pruſſian directory, in the declaration of motives, publiſhed under the noſe of a prince to whom friendſhip was pretended, thought it ſuperfluous to alledge even any pretext, to colour the uſurpation of his territories and revenues.

Though this was certainly the caſe, in his Pruſſian majeſty's firſt expoſition of motives, the omiſſion was afterwards ſupplied in a ſubſequent memorial to the States General; in which he charged the king of Poland, as an accomplice in, if not an acceſſory to the treaty of Peterſburg; and even taxed him with having agreed to a partition of ſome Pruſſian territories, when they ſhould be conquered. This treaty of partition, however, appears to have been made in time of actual war, before all cauſe of diſpute was removed by the peace of Dreſden.

Imperial decrees publiſhed againſt the king of Pruſſia.

While the Auſtrian and Pruſſian armies were in the field, their reſpective miniſters were not idle at Ratiſbon, where three Imperial decrees were publiſhed againſt his Pruſſian majeſty: the firſt, ſummoning that prince to withdraw his troops from the electorate of Saxony; the ſecond, commanding all the vaſſals of the empire employed by the king of Pruſſia to quit that ſervice immediately; and the third, forbidding the members of the Empire

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to ſuffer any levies of ſoldiers, for the Pruſſian ſervice, to be raiſed within their reſpective juriſdictions. The French miniſter declared to the dyet, that the proceedings of his Pruſſian majeſty having diſcloſed to the world the project concerted between that prince and the king of England, to excite in the Empire a religious war, which might be favourable to their particular views, his moſt Chriſtian majeſty, in conſequence of his engagements with the Empreſs-queen, and many other princes of the Empire, being reſolved to ſuccour them in the moſt efficacious manner, would forthwith ſend ſuch a number of troops to their aid, as might be thought neceſſary to preſerve the liberty of the Germanic body. An. 1756.

On the other hand, the Pruſſian miniſter aſſured the dyet, that his maſter would very ſoon produce the proofs that were come to his hands of the plan concerted by the courts of Vienna and Dreſden, for the ſubverſion of his electoral houſe, and for impoſing upon him a yoke, which ſeemed to threaten the whole Empire.

Declarations of different powers.

About the ſame time the Ruſſian reſident at the Hague communicated to the States General a declaration from his miſtreſs, importing, that her Imperial majeſty having ſeen a memorial preſented at the court of Vienna by the king of Pruſſia's envoy extraordinary, was thereby convinced that his Pruſſian majeſty's intention was to attack the territories of the Empreſs-queen; in which caſe, ſhe (the Czarina) was inevitably obliged to ſuccour her ally with all her forces; for which end ſhe had ordered all her troops in Livonia to be forthwith aſſembled on the frontiers, and hold themſelves in

An. 1756. readineſs to march: that moreover, the Ruſſian admiralty had been enjoined to provide immediately a ſufficient number of gallies for tranſporting a large body of troops to Lubec. The miniſters of the Empreſs-queen, both at the Hague and at London, delivered memorials to the States General and his Britannic majeſty, demanding the ſuccours which theſe two powers were bound to afford the houſe of Auſtria by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle; but their high mightineſſes kept warily aloof by dint of evaſion, and the king of Great Britain was far otherwiſe engaged.

The invaſion of Saxony had well nigh produced tragedies in the royal family of France. The dauphineſs, who was far advanced in her pregnancy, no ſooner learned the diſtreſsful circumſtances of her parents, the king and queen of Poland, than ſhe was ſeized with violent fits, which occaſioned a miſcarriage, and brought her life into the moſt imminent danger.

The Pruſſian miniſter was immediately ordered to quit Verſailles; and directions were diſpatched to the French miniſter at Berlin, to retire from that court without taking leave. Finally, the emperor of Germany concluded a new convention with the French king, regulating the ſuccours to be derived from that quarter: he claimed in all the uſual forms, the aſſiſtance of the Germanic body as guaranty of the pragmatic ſanction and treaty of Dreſden; and Sweden was alſo addreſſed on the ſame ſubject.

The king of Pruſſia did not paſſively bear all the imputations that were fixed upon his conduct. His miniſter at the Hague preſented a memorial

in anſwer to that of the Saxon reſident, in which he accuſed the court of Dreſden of having adopted every part of the ſcheme which his enemies had formed for his deſtruction. He affirmed that the Saxon miniſters had, in all the courts of Europe, played off every engine of unwarrantable politics, in order to pave the way for the execution of their project: that they had endeavoured to give an odious turn to his moſt innocent actions: that they had ſpared neither malicious inſinuations, nor even the moſt atrocious calumnies, to alienate all the world from his majeſty, and raiſe up enemies againſt him every where. He ſaid he had received information that the court of Saxony intended to let his troops paſs freely, and afterwards wait for events of which they might avail themſelves, either by joining his enemies, or making a diverſion in his dominions: that in ſuch a ſituation he could not avoid having recourſe to the only means which were left him for preventing his inevitable ruin, by putting it out of the power of Saxony to encreaſe the number of his enemies. He aſſerted that all the meaſures he had purſued in that electorate were but the neceſſary conſequences of the firſt reſolution he was forced to take for his own preſervation: that he had done nothing but deprived the court of Saxony of the means of hurting him; and this had been done with all poſſible moderation: that the country enjoyed all the ſecurity and all the quiet which could be expected in the very midſt of peace, the Pruſſian troops obſerving the moſt exact diſcipline: that all due reſpect was ſhewn to the queen of Poland, who had been prevailed upon by the moſt ſuitable repreſentations, to ſuffer ſome

An. 1756. His Pruſſian majeſty's anſwer to the Saxon memorial.

papers

An. 1756. papers to be taken from the paper-office, of which his Pruſſian majeſty already had copies; and thought it neceſſary, to aſcertain the dangerous deſign of the Saxon miniſtry againſt him, to ſecure the originals; the exiſtence and reality of which might otherwiſe have been denied†. He obſerved that every man has a right to prevent the miſchief with which he is threatened, and to retort it upon its author; and that neither the conſtitutions nor the laws of the Empire could obſtruct the exertion of a right ſo ſuperior to all others, as that of ſelf-preſervation and ſelf-defence; eſpecially when the depoſitory of theſe laws is ſo cloſely united to the enemy as manifeſtly to abuſe his power in her favour.

A juſtification of his conduct.

But the moſt important ſtep which his Pruſſian majeſty took in his own juſtification, was that of publiſhing another memorial ſpecifying the conduct of the court of Vienna and Saxony, and their dangerous deſigns againſt his perſon and intereſt, together with the original documents adduced as proofs of theſe ſiniſter intentions. As a knowledge of theſe pieces is requiſite to form a diſtinct idea of the motives which produced this dreadful war upon the continent, it will not be amiſs to uſher the ſubſtance of them to the reader's acquaintance. His Pruſſian majeſty affirms, that to arrive at the ſource of the vaſt plan upon which

† Can the levying exorbitant contributions, and ſeizing the revenues of the electorate, be deemed inſtances of moderation? Was it conſiſtent with the reſpect due to a venerable queen, to place centries upon her palace both without and within, and ſend orders even to do violence on her perſon ſhould ſhe attempt to hinder the officer from breaking open the cabinet?

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the courts of Vienna and Saxony had been employed againſt him ever ſince the peace of Dreſden, we muſt trace it as far back as the war which preceeded this peace: that the fond hopes which the two allied courts had conceived upon the ſucceſs of the campaign in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty four, gave occaſion to a treaty of eventual partition, ſtipulating that the court of Vienna ſhould poſſeſs the dutchy of Sileſia, and the county of Glatz: while the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, ſhould ſhare the dutchies of Magdebourg and Croiſſen; the circles of Zullichow and Swibus, together with the Pruſſian part of Luſatia: that after the peace of Dreſden, concluded in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-five, there was no further room for a treaty of this nature: yet the court of Vienna propoſed to that of Saxony a new alliance, in which the treaty of eventual partition ſhould be renewed: but this laſt thought it neceſſary, in the firſt place, to give a greater conſiſtency to their plan, by grounding it upon an alliance between the Empreſs-queen and the Czarina. Accordingly theſe two powers did, in fact, conclude a defenſive alliance at Peterſburg in the courſe of the enſuing year: but the body or oſtenſible part of this treaty was compoſed meerly with a view to conceal from the knowledge of the public, ſix ſecret articles, the fourth of which was levelled ſingly againſt Pruſſia, according to the exact copy of it, which appeared among the documents. In this article, the Empreſs-queen of Hungary and Bohemia ſets out with a proteſtation, that ſhe will religiouſly obſerve the treaty of Dreſden; but explains her real way of thinking upon

An. 1756.

An. 1756. the ſubject, a little lower in the following terms: "If the king of Pruſſia ſhould be the firſt to depart from this peace, by attacking either her majeſty the Empreſs-queen of Hungary and Bohemia, or her majeſty the empreſs of Ruſſia, or even the republic of Poland; in all theſe caſes, the rights of the Empreſs-queen to Sileſia and the county of Glatz, would again take place, and recover their full effect: the two contracting parties ſhould mutually aſſiſt each other with ſixty thouſand men to atchieve theſe conqueſts. The king obſerves upon this article, that every war which can ariſe between him and Ruſſia, or the republic of Poland, would be looked upon as a manifeſt infraction of the peace of Dreſden, and a revival of the rights of the houſe of Auſtria to Sileſia; though neither Ruſſia nor the republic of Poland is at all concerned in the treaty of Dreſden; and though the latter, with which the king lived in the moſt intimate friendſhip, was not even in alliance with the court of Vienna: that, according to the principles of the law of nature, received among all civilized nations, the moſt the court of Vienna could be authoriſed to do in ſuch caſes, would be to ſend thoſe ſuccours to her allies which are due to them by treaties, without her having the leaſt pretence, on that account, to free herſelf from the particular engagements ſubſiſting between her and the king: he appealed therefore to the judgment of the impartial world, whether in this ſecret article the contracting powers had kept within the bounds of a defenſive alliance: or whether this article did not rather contain a plan of an offenſive alliance againſt the king of Pruſſia. He affirmed it was obvious, from this article, that the

court of Vienna had prepared three pretences for the recovery of Sileſia; and that ſhe thought to attain her end either by provoking the king to commence hoſtilities againſt her, or to kindle a war between his majeſty and Ruſſia by her ſecret intrigues and machinations: he alledges that the court of Saxony, being invited to accede to this alliance, eagerly accepted the invitation; furniſhed its miniſters at Peterſburg with full powers for that purpoſe; and ordered them to declare that their maſter was not only ready to accede to the treaty itſelf, but alſo to the ſecret article againſt Pruſſia; and to join in the regulations made by the two courts, provided effectual meaſures ſhould be taken, as well for the ſecurity of Saxony, as for its indemnification and recompence, in proportion to the efforts and progreſs that might be made: that the court of Dreſden declared, if upon any freſh attack from the king of Pruſſia, the Empreſs-queen ſhould, by their aſſiſtance, not only reconquer Sileſia, and the county of Glatz, but alſo reduce him within narrower bounds; the king of Poland, as elector of Saxony, would abide by the partition formerly ſtipulated between him and the Empreſs-queen. He alſo declared that count Loſs, the Saxon miniſter at Vienna, was charged to open a private negotiation for ſettling an eventual partition of the conqueſt which might be made on Pruſſia, by laying down, as the baſis of it, the treaty of Leipſic, ſigned on the eighteenth day of May, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty five; as would appear by the documents affixed. He owned it had been ſuppoſed, through the whole of this negotiation, that the king of Pruſſia ſhould be the aggreſſor An. 1756.

An. 1756. greſſor againſt the court of Vienna; but he inſiſted, that even in this caſe the king of Poland could have no right to make conqueſts on his Pruſſian majeſty. He likewiſe acknowledged that the court of Saxony had not yet acceded in form to the treaty of Peterſburg; but he obſerved, its allies were given to underſtand again and again, that it was ready to accede without reſtriction, whenever this could be done without riſque; and the advantages to be gained ſhould be ſecured in its favour: circumſtances proved by divers authentic documents, particularly by a letter from count Fleming to count de Bruhl, informing him that count Uhlefield had charged him to repreſent afreſh to his court, that they could not take too ſecure meaſures againſt the ambitious views of the king of Pruſſia; that Saxony in particular, ought to be cautious, as being the moſt expoſed: that it was of the higheſt importance to ſtrengthen their old engagements upon the footing propoſed by the late count de Harrach in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty five; a ſtep which might be taken on occaſion of his Poliſh majeſty's acceſſion to the treaty of Peterſburg. The anſwer of count Bruhl to this diſpatch imported, that the king of Poland was not averſe to treat in the utmoſt ſecrecy with the court of Vienna, about ſuccours, by private and confidential declarations relating to the fourth ſecret article of the treaty of Peterſburg, on condition of reaſonable terms and advantages, which in this caſe ought to be granted to his majeſty. He quoted other diſpatches to prove the unwillingneſs of his Poliſh majeſty to declare himſelf, until the king of Pruſſia ſhould be attacked, and his

his forces divided; and that this ſcruple was admitted by the allies of Saxony. From theſe premiſes he deduced this inference, that the court of Dreſden, without having acceded in form to the treaty of Peterſburg, was not leſs an accomplice in the dangerous deſigns which the court of Vienna had grounded upon this treaty; and that having been diſpenſed with from a formal concurrence, it had only waited for that moment when it might, without running any great riſque, concur in effect, and ſhare the ſpoils of its neighbour. In expectation of this period, he ſaid the Auſtrian and Saxon miniſters laboured in concert and underhand with the more ardour, to bring the Caſus Fœderis into exiſtence; for it being laid down as a principle in the treaty, that any war whatever between him and Ruſſia, would authoriſe the Empreſs-queen to retake Sileſia, there was nothing more to be done but to kindle ſuch a war; for which purpoſe no method was found more proper than that of embroiling the king with the empreſs of Ruſſia; and to provoke that princeſs, with all ſorts of falſe inſinuations, impoſtures, and the moſt atrocious calumnies, in laying to his majeſty's charge a variety of deſigns, ſometimes againſt Ruſſia, and even the perſon of the Czarina; ſometimes views upon Poland, and ſometimes intrigues in Sweden. By theſe and other ſuch contrivances, he affirmed they had kindled the animoſity of the Empreſs to ſuch a degree, that in a couucil held in the month of October, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty three, ſhe had reſolved to attack the king of Pruſſia without any further diſcuſſion, whether he ſhould fall upon any of the allies of Ruſſia, or one of them

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An. 1756. ſhould begin with him: a reſolution which for that time was fruſtrated by their want of ſeamen and magazines; but the preparations were continued, under pretence of keeping themſelves in a condition to fulfil their engagements contracted in the laſt ſubſidiary convention with England; and when all were finiſhed, the ſtorm would fall on the king of Pruſſia.

Remarks on theſe pieces.

This is the ſubſtance of that famous memorial publiſhed by his Pruſſian majeſty, to which the juſtifying pieces or authentic documents were annexed; and to which a circumſtantial anſwer was exhibited by the partiſans of her Imperial majeſty. Specious reaſons may, doubtleſs, be adduced on either ſide of almoſt any diſpute, by writers of ingenuity: but, in examining this conteſt, it muſt be allowed that both ſides adopted illicit practices. The Empreſs-queen and the elector of Saxony had certainly a right to form defenſive treaties for their own preſervation; and without all doubt, it was their intereſt and their duty to ſecure themſelves from the enterprizes of ſuch a formidable neighbour: but at the ſame time the contracting parties ſeem to have carried their views much farther than defenſive meaſures. Perhaps the court of Vienna conſidered the ceſſion of Sileſia as a circumſtance altogether compulſive, and therefore not binding againſt the rights of natural equity. She did not at all doubt that the king of Pruſſia would be tempted by his ambition and great warlike power, to take ſome ſtep which might be juſtly interpreted into an infraction of the treaty of Dreſden; and in that caſe ſhe was determined to avail herſelf of the confederacy ſhe had formed, that ſhe might retrieve

trieve the countries ſhe had loſt by the unfortunate events of the laſt war, as well as bridle the dangerous power and diſpoſition of the Pruſſian monarch: and in all probability, the king of Poland, over and above the ſame conſideration, was deſirous of ſome indemnification for the laſt irruption into his electoral dominions, and the great ſums he had paid for the ſubſequent peace. Whether they were authoriſed by the law of nature and nations to make repriſals by an actual partition of the countries they might conquer, ſuppoſing him to be the aggreſſor, we ſhall not pretend to determine: but it does not at all appear that his Pruſſian majeſty's danger was ſuch as intitled him to take thoſe violent ſteps which he now attempted to juſtify. By this time the flame of war was kindled up to a blaze that ſoon filled the empire with ruin and deſolation; and the king of Pruſſia had drawn upon himſelf the reſentment of the three greateſt powers in Europe, who laid aſide their former animoſities, and every conſideration of that balance, which it had coſt ſuch blood and treaſure to preſerve, in order to conſpire his deſtruction. The king himſelf could not but foreſee this confederacy, and know the power it might exert: but probably he confided ſo much in the number, the valour and diſcipline of his troops; in the ſkill of his officers; in his own conduct and activity; that he hoped to cruſh the houſe of Auſtria by one rapid endeavour at the latter end of the ſeaſon, or at leaſt eſtabliſh himſelf in Bohemia, before her allies could move to her aſſiſtance. In this hope, however, he was diſappointed by the vigilance of the Auſtrian councils. He found the Empreſs-queen in a condition

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An. 1756. to make head againſt him in every avenue to her dominions; and in a fair way of being aſſiſted by the circles of the empire. He ſaw himſelf threatened with the vengeance of the Ruſſian empreſs, and the ſword of France gleaming over his head, without any proſpect of aſſiſtance but that which he might derive from his alliance with Great Britain. Thus the k— of E——d exchanged the alliance of R—-, which was his ſubſidiary, and the friendſhip of the Empreſs-queen, his old and natural ally, for a new connexion with his P—n majeſty, who could neither act as an auxiliary to G— B---n, nor as a protector to H—r; and for this connection, the advantage of which was merely negative, ſuch a price was paid by E—d, as had never been given by any other potentate of Europe, even for ſervices of the greateſt importance.

Diſputes continue between the parliament of Paris and the clergy of France.

About the latter end of November, the Saxon miniſter at Ratiſbon delivered to the dyet a new and ample memorial, explaining the lamentable ſtate of that electorate, and imploring afreſh the aſſiſtance of the Empire. The king of Pruſſia had alſo addreſſed a letter to the dyet, demanding ſuccour of the ſeveral ſtates, agreeable to their guaranties of the treaties of Weſtphalia, and Dreſden: but the miniſter of Mentz, as director of the dyet, having refuſed to lay it before that aſſembly, the miniſter of Brandenburg ordered it to be printed, and ſent to his court for further inſtructions. In the mean time his Pruſſian majeſty thought proper to intimate to the king and ſenate of Poland, that ſhould the Ruſſian troops be permitted to march through that kingdom, they might expect to ſee their country made a ſcene of war

war and deſolation. In France the proſpect of a general and ſanguinary war did not at all allay the diſturbance which ſprang from the diſſenſion between the clergy and parliament, touching the bull Unigenitus. The king being again brought over to the eccleſiaſtical ſide of the diſpute, received a brief from the pope, laying it down as a fundamental article, that whoſoever refuſes to ſubmit to the bull Unigenitus is in the way to damnation: and certain caſes are ſpecified in which the ſacraments are to be denied. The parliament of Paris, conſidering this brief or bull as a direct attack upon the rights of the Gallican church, iſſued an arret or decree ſuppreſſing the ſaid bull; reſerving to themſelves the right of providing againſt the inconveniencies with which it might be attended; as well as the privilege to maintain in their full force the prerogatives of the crown, the power and juriſdiction of the biſhops, the liberties of the Gallican church, and the cuſtoms of the realm. The king, diſſatisfied with their interpoſition, declared his deſign to hold a bed of juſtice in perſon at the palace. Accordingly, on the twelfth day of November, the whole body of his guards, amounting to ten thouſand men, took poſt in the city of Paris: and next day the king repaired with the uſual ceremony to the palace where the bed of juſtice was held: among other regulations, an edict was iſſued for ſuppreſſing the fourth and fifth chambers of inqueſts, the members of which had remarkably diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their oppoſition to the bull Unigenitus. An. 1756.

In England, the dearth of corn, ariſing in a great meaſure from the iniquitous practice of engroſſing, Dearth of corn in England.

An. 1756. groſſing, was ſo ſeverely felt by the common people, that inſurrections were raiſed in Shropſhire and Warwickſhire by the populace, in conjunction with the colliers, who ſeized by violence all the proviſion they could find; pillaging without diſtinction, the millers, farmers, grocers, and butchers, until they were diſperſed by the gentlemen of the country at the head of their tenants and dependants. Diſorders of the ſame nature were excited by the colliers in the foreſt of Dean, and thoſe employed in the works of Cumberland. The corporations, noblemen, and gentlemen, in different parts of the kingdom, exerted themſelves for the relief of the poor, who were greatly diſtreſſed; and a grand council being aſſembled at St. James's on the ſame ſubject, a proclamation was publiſhed for putting the laws in ſpeedy and effectual execution againſt the foreſtallers and engroſſers of corn.

The Hanoverian auxiliaries ſent back to their own country.

The fear of an invaſion having now ſubſided, and Hanover being ſuppoſed in greater danger than Great Britain, the auxiliaries of that electorate were tranſported from England to their own country. At the latter end of the ſeaſon, when the weather became ſevere, the innkeepers of England refuſed to admit the Heſſian ſoldiers into winter-quarters, as no proviſion had been made for that purpoſe by act of parliament; ſo that they were obliged to hut their camp, and remain in the open fields till January: but the rigour of this uncomfortable ſituation was ſoftened by the hand of generous charity, which liberally ſupplied them with all manner of refreſhment, and other conveniencies; a humane interpoſition, which reſcued the national character from the imputation of cruelty and ingratitude.

On

On the ſecond day of December, his majeſty opened the ſeſſion of parliament, with a ſpeech that ſeemed to be dictated by the genius of England. He expreſſed his confidence, that, under the guidance of divine Providence, the union, fortitude, and affection of his people, would enable him to ſurmount all difficulties, and vindicate the dignity of his crown againſt the antient enemy of Great Britain. He declared that the ſuccour and preſervation of America conſtituted a main object of his attention and ſollicitude; and obſerved, that the growing dangers to which the Britiſh colonies might ſtand expoſed from late loſſes in that country, demanded reſolutions of vigour and diſpatch. He ſaid an adequate and firm defence at home ſhould maintain the chief place in his thoughts; and in this great view he had nothing ſo much at heart, as to remove all grounds of diſſatisfaction from his people: for this end, he recommended to the care and diligence of the parliament the framing of a national militia, planned and regulated with equal regard to the juſt rights of his crown and people; an inſtitution which might become one good reſource in times of general danger. He took notice that the unnatural union of councils abroad, the calamities which, in conſequence of this unhappy conjunction, might, by irruptions of foreign armies into the Empire, ſhake its conſtitution, overturn its ſyſtem, and threaten oppreſſion to the proteſtant intereſt on the continent, were events which muſt ſenſibly affect the minds of the Britiſh nation; and had fixed the eyes of Europe on this new and dangerous criſis. He gave them to underſtand that the body of his elec-

An. 1756. King's ſpeech to the parliament.

An. 1756. electoral troops, which were brought hither at the deſire of his parliament, he had now directed to return to his dominions in Germany, relying with pleaſure on the ſpirit and zeal of his people, in defence of his perſon and realm. He told the commons that he confided in their wiſdom, for preferring more vigorous efforts, though more expenſive, to a leſs effectual, and therefore leſs frugal plan of war; that he had placed before them the dangers and neceſſities of the public: and it was their duty to lay the burdens they ſhould judge unavoidable, in ſuch a manner as would leaſt diſturb and exhauſt his people. He expreſſed his concern for the ſufferings of the poor, ariſing from the preſent dearth of corn, and for the diſturbances to which it had given riſe; and exhorted his parliament to conſider of proper proviſions for preventing the like miſchiefs hereafter. He concluded with remarking, that unproſperous events of war in the Mediterranean had drawn from his ſubjects ſignal proofs how dearly they tendered the honour of his crown; therefore they could not, on his part, fail to meet with juſt returns of unwearied care, and unceaſing endeavours for the glory, proſperity, and happineſs of his people.

Exceptions to one paragraph of the addreſs in the houſe of peers.

The king having retired from the houſe of peers, the ſpeech was read by the lord Sandys, appointed to act as ſpeaker to that houſe; then earl Gower moved for an addreſs, which, however, was not carried without objection. In one part of it his majeſty was thanked for having cauſed a body of electoral troops to come into England at the requeſt of his parliament; and this article was diſagreeable to thoſe who had diſapproved of the requeſt

requeſt in the laſt ſeſſion. They ſaid they wiſhed to ſee the preſent addreſs unanimouſly agreed to by the lords; a ſatisfaction they could not have if ſuch a paragraph ſhould be inſerted: for they ſtill thought the bringing over Hanoverian troops a prepoſterous meaſure; becauſe it had not only loaded the nation with an enormous expence, but alſo furniſhed the court of France with a plauſible pretence for invading the electorate, which otherwiſe it would have no ſhadow of reaſon to attack; beſides, the expedient was held in reprobation by the ſubjects in general, and ſuch a paragraph might be conſidered as an inſult on the people. Notwithſtanding theſe exceptions, which did not ſeem to be very important, the addreſs including this paragraph, was approved by a great majority. An. 1756.

In the addreſs of the commons no ſuch paragraph was inſerted. As ſoon as the ſpeaker had recited his majeſty's ſpeech, Mr. C. Townſhend propoſed the heads of an addreſs, to which the houſe unanimouſly agreed; and it was preſented accordingly. This neceſſary form was no ſooner diſcuſſed, than the houſe, with a warmth of humanity and benevolence ſuitable to ſuch an aſſembly, reſolved itſelf into a committee to deliberate on that part of his majeſty's ſpeech which related to the dearth of corn, that ſo much diſtreſſed the poorer claſs of people. A bill was immediately framed, to prohibit for a time limited, the exportation of corn, malt, meal, flour, bread, biſcuit and ſtarch; and a reſolution unanimouſly taken to addreſs the ſovereign, that an embargo might be forthwith laid upon all ſhips laden or to be laden with

A bill prohibiting for a limited time the exportation of corn, &c.

An. 1756. with theſe commodities to be exported from the ports of Great Britain and Ireland.

Meſſage to the houſe of commons relating to admiral Byng.

At the ſame time vice-admiral Boſcawen, from the board of admiralty, informed the houſe, that the king and the board having been diſſatisfied with the conduct of admiral Byng, in a late action with the French fleet in the Mediterranean, and for the appearance of his not having acted agreeably to his inſtructions for the relief of Minorca, he was then in cuſtody of the marſhal of the admiralty, in order to be tried by a court-martial: that although this was no more than what was uſual in like caſes, yet as admiral Byng was then a member of the houſe, and as his confinement might detain him ſome time from his duty there, the board of admiralty thought it a reſpect due to the houſe to inform them of the commitment and detainer of the ſaid admiral. This meſſage being delivered, the journal of the houſe in relation to rear-admiral * Knowles was read, and what Mr. Boſcawen now communicated was alſo inſerted.

The

* Rear-admiral Knowles being, in the month of December one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-nine, tried at Deptford, before a court-martial, for his behaviour in and relating to an action, which happened on the firſt day of October in the preceding year, between a Britiſh ſquadron under his command, and a ſquadron of Spain; the court was unanimouſly of opinion, that the ſaid Knowles, while he was ſtanding for the enemy, might, by a different diſpoſition of his ſquadron, have begun the attack with ſix ſhips as early in the day, as four of them were engaged; and that therefore, by his neglecting ſo to do, he gave the enemy a manifeſt advantage: that the ſaid Knowles remained on board the ſhip Cornwal with his flag, after ſhe was diſabled from continuing the action, though he might, upon her being diſabled, have ſhifted his flag on board another ſhip; and

The committees of ſupply, and of ways and means, being appointed, took into conſideration the neceſſities of the ſtate, and made very ample proviſion for enabling his majeſty to maintain the war with vigour. They granted fifty-five thouſand men for the ſea-ſervice, including eleven thouſand four hundred and nineteen marines; and for the land-ſervice forty-nine thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-nine effective men, comprehending four thouſand and eight invalids. The ſupply was granted for the maintenance of theſe forces, as well as for the troops of Heſſe and Hanover; for the ordnance; the levy of new regiments; for aſſiſting his majeſty in forming and maintaining an army of obſervation; for the juſt and neceſſary defence and preſervation of his electoral dominions, and thoſe of his allies; and towards enabling him to fulfil his engagements with the king of Pruſſia; for the ſecurity of the Empire againſt the irruption of foreign * armies, as well as for the ſupport of the com-

An. 1757. Supplies granted.

and the court were unanimouſly of opinion, he ought to have done ſo, in order to have conducted and directed, during the whole action, the motion of the ſquadron intruſted to his care and conduct. Upon conſideration of the whole conduct of the ſaid Knowles, relating to that action, the court did unanimouſly agree, that he fell under part of the fourteenth article of the articles of war, namely, the word Negligence, and no other; and alſo under the twenty-third article.——The court, therefore, unanimouſly adjudged, that he ſhould be reprimanded for not bringing up the ſquadron in cloſer order than he did, and not beginning the attack with as great force as he might have done; and alſo for not ſhifting his flag, upon the Cornwal's being diſabled.

* Nothing could more glorioufly evince the generoſity of a Britiſh parliament than this interpoſition for defending the liberties of Germany, in conjunction with two electors only, againſt the ſenſe of the other

An. 1757. common cauſe; for building and repairs of ſhips, hiring tranſports, payment of half-pay officers, and the penſions of widows; for enabling his majeſty to diſcharge the like ſum, raiſed in purſuance of an act paſſed in the laſt ſeſſion of parliament, and charged upon the firſt aids or ſupplies to be granted in this ſeſſion; for enabling the governors and guardians of the hoſpital for the maintenance and education of expoſed and deſerted young children, to receive all ſuch children, under a certain age, as ſhould be brought to the ſaid hoſpital within the compaſs of one * year; for maintaining and ſupporting the new ſettlement of Nova Scotia; for repairing and finiſhing military roads; for making good his majeſty's engagements with the land-

other ſeven, and in direct oppoſition to the meaſures taken by the head of the Empire, who has, in the ſequel, ſtigmatized theſe two princes as rebels, and treated one of them as an outlaw.

* This charity, eſtabliſhed by voluntary contribution, might, under proper reſtrictions, prove beneficial to the commonwealth, by reſcuing deſerted children from miſery and death, and qualifying them for being ſerviceable members of the community: but ſince the liberality of parliament hath enabled the governors and corporation to receive all the children that are preſented, without queſtion or limitation, the yearly expence hath ſwelled into a national grievance, and the humane purpoſes of the original inſtitution are in a great meaſure defeated. Inſtead of an aſylum for poor forlorn orphans and abandoned foundlings, it is become a general receptacle for the offſpring of the diſſolute, who care not to work for the maintenance of their families: thus the charity is converted into an encouragement to idleneſs; and the general expence increaſes ſo faſt, that in a few years the burden will be intolerable. The hoſpital itſelf is a plain edifice, well contrived for œconomy and convenience, ſtanding on the north ſide of the city, and a little detached from it, in an agreeable and ſalubrious ſituation. The hall is adorned with ſome good paintings, the chapel is elegant, and the regulations are admirable.

grave

Captain CORAM, Projector
of the Foundling Hospital.

grave of Heſſe Caſſel; for the expence of marching, recruiting, and remounting German troops in the pay of Great Britain; for impowering his majeſty to defray any extraordinary expences of the war, incurred or to be incurred for the ſervice of the enſuing year; and to take all ſuch meaſures as might be neceſſary to diſappoint or defeat any enterprizes or deſigns of his enemies, as the exigency of affairs ſhould require; for the payment of ſuch perſons, in ſuch a manner as his majeſty ſhould direct, for the uſe and relief of his ſubjects in the ſeveral provinces of North and South Carolina and Virginia; in recompence for ſuch ſervices as, with the approbation of his majeſty's commander in chief in America, they reſpectively had performed, or ſhould perform, either by putting theſe provinces in a ſtate of defence, or by acting with vigour againſt the enemy; for enabling the Eaſt India company to defray the expence of a military force in their ſettlements, to be maintained in them, in lieu of a battalion of his majeſty's forces withdrawn from thoſe forts and factories; for the maintenance and ſupport of the forts on the coaſt of Africa; for widening the avenues, and rendering more ſafe and commodious the ſtreets and paſſages, leading from Charing-croſs to the two houſes of parliament, the courts of juſtice, and the new bridge of Weſtminſter *. Such were the articles under which we may ſpecify the ſupplies of this year, on the An. 1757.

* The bridge at Weſtminſter may be conſidered as a national ornament. It was built, at the public expence, from the neighbourhood of Weſtminſter-hall to the oppoſite ſide of the river, and conſiſts of thirteen arches, conſtructed with equal elegance and ſimplicity.

An. 1757. whole amounting to eight millions three hundred fifty thouſand three hundred and twenty-five pounds nine ſhillings and three pence. It muſt be acknowledged for the honour of the adminiſtration, that the houſe of commons could not have exhibited ſtronger marks of their attachment to the crown and perſon of their ſovereign, as well as of their deſire to ſee the force of the nation exerted with becoming ſpirit.

Funds provided. The funds provided by the committee of ways and means for defraying the expence of the year, may be comprehended under the following reſolutions. They impoſed a land-tax at four ſhillings in the pound: they continued the duties on malt, mum, cyder, and perry: they projected a lottery of one guinea tickets, for raiſing a ſum not exceeding one million fifty thouſand and five pounds five ſhillings; one moiety of the value of the tickets to be divided into prizes for the benefit of the proprietors, and the other half to be applied to the uſe of the public: they reſolved that the ſum of two millions five hundred thouſand pounds ſhould be raiſed by annuities for lives, with the benefit of ſurvivorſhip, or for terms of years certain, charged upon a fund to be eſtabliſhed in this ſeſſion of parliament for the payment thereof, and for which the ſinking fund ſhould be a collateral ſecurity. The conditions on which they propoſed to grant theſe annuities, being offered to the publick in the month of March, were ſo ill reliſhed by the Jews and jobbers, that a very ſmall ſum had been ſubſcribed within the time limited; therefore the affair was again taken into conſideration by the committee, and their reſolutions were altered to the fol-

following purpoſe: that ſo much of the ſum of two millions five hundred thouſand pounds, intended to be raiſed by annuities for lives, with the benefit of ſurvivorſhip, or for terms of years certain, purſuant to the reſolution of the houſe of the fourteenth of March, as had not been ſubſcribed for within the time limited, amounting to the ſum of two millions one hundred eighty-ſix thouſand and nine hundred pounds, ſhould be raiſed by annuities at the rate of three pounds per centum per annum, tranſferable at the bank of England, and redeemable by parliament, the ſaid annuities to be payed by half-yearly payments; and that each contributor ſhould, for every hundred pounds contributed, be intitled alſo to an annuity for life, after the rate of one pound two ſhillings and ſix pence per centum, to be payed in like manner; the firſt payment of both to be made on the fifth day of January one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-eight, if ſuch contributors reſpectively ſhould on or before that time have appointed their nominees, or upon ſuch of the ſaid half-yearly days of payment as ſhould be next after the reſpective appointment of their nominees; the ſaid reſpective annuities to be charged upon the fund reſolved to be eſtabliſhed in this ſeſſion of parliament, for payment of the annuities mentioned in the reſolution of March the fourteenth, for which the ſinking-fund ſhould be a collateral ſecurity; and that all ſuch contributors ſhould, on or before the fourth day of May, make a depoſit with the caſhiers of the bank of England of fifteen pounds for every hundred which they ſhould chooſe to contribute, and ſhould make the future payments on or before the times herein

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Additional ſtamp-duties.

The fund eſtabliſhed for the payment of theſe annuities conſiſted of the ſurplus of the duties on licences for retailing ſpirituous liquors; an additional ſtamp-duty of one ſhilling upon every indenture, leaſe, bond, or deed, written upon vellum,

parchment, or paper, for which a ſtamp-duty of ſix pence was payable by a former act of parliament; an additional ſtamp-duty of five pounds upon every licence for retailing wine, to be granted to thoſe who ſhould not take out licences for retailing ſpirits, beer, ale, or other exciſeable liquors; an additional ſtamp-duty of four pounds for a wine licence to be granted to any perſon who ſhould take out a licence for retailing beer, ale, and other exciſeable liquors, but ſhould not take out a licence for retailing ſpirituous liquors; of an additional ſtamp-duty of forty ſhillings for a licence to retail wine, to be granted to any perſon who ſhould take out a licence for retailing ſpirituous liquors: theſe licences to be taken out annually, and granted by the commiſſioners appointed for managing the duties ariſing by ſtamps upon vellum, parchment, and paper. They reſolved to repeal the act for the better ordering the ſelling of wines by retail, and for preventing abuſes in the mingling, corrupting, and vitiating of wines, and for ſetting and limiting the prices of the ſame, except ſo much thereof as related to theſe abuſes: that from the day of the repeal, which was the fifth of July in the preſent year, the commiſſion, whereby agents and commiſſioners were appointed to grant licences for retailing wine, ſhould ceaſe and determine: that, out of the ſeveral duties before mentioned, his majeſty ſhould be impowered to grant, during pleaſure, to the ſaid ſeveral agents or commiſſioners, and their officers, ſuch yearly allowances as he ſhould think proper, ſo as not to exceed the preſent annual amount of their ſalaries: that, after the determination of the former duties An. 1757.

An. 1757. upon wine-licences, his majeſty ſhould receive from the new duties a ſum equal to the produce of the former.

The eſtabliſhed fund was moreover augmented by additional duties on news-papers, advertiſements, almanacks or kalendars, and Newcaſtle coals exported beyond ſeas to any country, except Ireland, the Iſle of Man, and the Britiſh plantations.

Towards the ſupply for the enſuing year the houſe likewiſe reſolved to apply one million two hundred thouſand pounds from the ſinking-fund; the ſavings out of the grants made this ſeſſion, for the pay of the Hanoverian troops in the ſervice of Great Britain; the ſurplus of the duties on licences, and of the grants for the preceding year remaining in the Exchequer; and one million to be raiſed by loans, or Exchequer-bills, to be charged on the firſt aids granted in the next ſeſſion of parliament.

Bills being formed on theſe reſolutions, ſoon paſſed into laws without oppoſition.

The ſums granted by the committee of ſupply did not exceed eight millions three hundred fifty thouſand three hundred twenty-five pounds nine ſhillings and three pence: the funds eſtabliſhed amounted to eight millions ſix hundred eighty-nine thouſand fifty-one pounds nineteen ſhillings and ſeven pence; ſo that there was an overplus of three hundred thirty-eight thouſand ſeven hundred and twenty ſix pounds ten ſhillings and four pence: an exceſs which was thought neceſſary, in caſe the lottery, which was founded on a new plan, ſhould not ſucceed.

Some of theſe impoſitions were deemed grievous hardſhips by thoſe upon whom they immediately fell;

fell; and many friends of their country exclaimed againſt the projected army of obſervation in Germany, as the commencement of a ruinous continental war, which it was neither the intereſt of the nation to undertake, nor in their power to maintain, without ſtarving the operations by ſea, and in America, founded on Britiſh principles; without contracting ſuch an additional load of debts and taxes, as could not fail to terminate in bankruptcy and diſtreſs. To thoſe dependants of the miniſtry who obſerved, that as Hanover was threatened by France for its connexion with Great Britain, it ought, in common gratitude, to be protected; they replied, that every ſtate, in aſſiſting an ally, ought to have a regard to its own preſervation: that if the king of England enjoyed by inheritance, or ſucceſſion, a province in the heart of France, it would be equally abſurd and unjuſt, in caſe of a rupture with that kingdom, to exhauſt the treaſures of Great Britain in the defence of ſuch a province; and yet the inhabitants of it would have the ſame right to complain, that they ſuffered for their connexion with England. They obſerved, that other dominions, electorates, and principalities in Germany, were ſecured by the conſtitutions of the Empire, as well as by fair and equal alliances with their co-eſtates; whereas Hanover ſtood ſolitary, like a hunted deer avoided by the herd, and had no other ſhelter but that of ſhrinking under the extended ſhield of Great Britain: that the reluctance expreſſed by the German princes to undertake the defence of theſe dominions, flowed from a firm perſuaſion, founded on experience, that England would interpoſe as a principal, and not

An. 1757. Reflections on continental war.

An. 1757. only draw her ſword againſt the enemies of the electorate, but concentrate her chief ſtrength in that object, and waſte her treaſures in purchaſing their concurrence: that, excluſive of an ample revenue drained from the ſweat of the people, great part of which had been expended in continental efforts, the whole national debt, incurred ſince the acceſſion of the late king, had been contracted in purſuance of meaſures totally foreign to the intereſt of theſe kingdoms: that, ſince Hanover was the favourite object, England would ſave money, and great quantities of Britiſh blood, by allowing France to take poſſeſſion of the electorate, paying its ranſom at the peace, and indemnifying the inhabitants for the damage they might ſuſtain; an expedient that would be productive of another good conſequence: it would rouſe the German princes from their affected indifference, and oblige them to exert themſelves with vigour, in order to avoid the deteſted neighbourhood of ſuch an enterpriſing invader.

Meſſages from the king to the parliament.

The article of the ſupply relating to the army of obſervation, took riſe from a meſſage ſigned by his majeſty, and preſented by Mr. Pitt, now promoted to the office of principal ſecretary of ſtate; a gentleman who had, upon ſundry occaſions, combated the gigantic plan of continental connexions with all the ſtrength of reaſon, and all the powers of eloquence. He now imparted to the houſe an intimation, importing, It was always with reluctance that his majeſty aſked extraordinary ſupplies of his people; but as the united councils, and formidable preparations of France and her allies, threatened Europe in general with the moſt alarming conſequences;

quences; and as theſe unjuſt and vindictive de- An. 1757.
ſigns were particularly and immediately bent againſt his majeſty's electoral dominions, and thoſe of his good ally the king of Pruſſia, his majeſty confided in the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful commons, that they would chearfully aſſiſt him in forming and maintaining an army of obſervation, for the juſt and neceſſary defence and preſervation of thoſe territories, and enable him to fulfil his engagements with his Pruſſian majeſty for the ſecurity of the Empire againſt the irruption of foreign armies, and for the ſupport of the common cauſe.

Poſterity will hardly believe, that the Emperor and all the princes in Germany were in a conſpiracy againſt their country, except the king of Pruſſia, the elector of Hanover, and the landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel; and they will, no doubt, be ſurpriſed, that Great Britain, after all the treaties ſhe had made, and the numberleſs ſubſidies ſhe had granted, ſhould not have an ally left, except one prince, ſo embarraſſed in his own affairs, that he could grant her no ſuccour, whatever aſſiſtance he might demand.

The king's meſſage met with as favourable a reception as he could have deſired. It was read in the houſe of commons, together with a copy of the treaty between his majeſty and the king of Pruſſia, including the ſecret and ſeparate article, and the declaration ſigned on each ſide by the plenipotentiaries at Weſtminſter: the requeſt was granted, and the convention approved. With equal readineſs did they gratify his majeſty's inclination, ſignified in another meſſage delivered, on the ſeventeenth

An. 1757. teenth day of May, by lord Bateman, intimating, That, in this critical conjuncture, emergencies might ariſe of the utmoſt importance, and be attended with the moſt pernicious conſequences, if proper means ſhould not be immediately applied to prevent or defeat them; his majeſty was therefore deſirous, that the houſe would enable him to defray any extraordinary expences of the war, incurred or to be incurred for the ſervice of the current year; and to take all ſuch meaſures as might be neceſſary to diſappoint or defeat any enterprizes or deſigns of his enemies, as the exigency of affairs might require. The committee of ſupply forthwith granted a very large ſum for theſe purpoſes, including the charge of German mercenaries. A like meſſage being at the ſame time communicated to the upper houſe, their lordſhips voted a very loyal addreſs upon the occaſion; and when the article of ſupply, which it produced among the commons, fell under their inſpection, they unanimouſly agreed to it, by way of a clauſe of appropriation.

Meaſures taken to remove the dearth of corn.

We have already obſerved, that the firſt bill which the commons paſſed in this ſeſſion was for the relief of the poor, by prohibiting the exportation of corn: but this remedy not being judged adequate to the evil, another bill was framed, removing, for a limited time, the duty then payable upon foreign corn and flour imported; as alſo permitting, for a certain term, all ſuch foreign corn, grain, meal, bread, biſcuit, and flour, as had been or ſhould be taken from the enemy, to be landed and expended in the kingdom duty free. In order ſtill more to reduce the high price of corn, and

and to prevent any ſupply of proviſions from being ſent to our enemies in America, a third bill was brought in, prohibiting, for a time therein limited, the exportation of corn, grain, meal, malt, flour, bread, biſcuit, ſtarch, beef, pork, bacon, or other victual, from any of the Britiſh plantations, unleſs to Great Britain or Ireland, or from one colony to another. To this act, which will remain in force during the continuance of the war, two clauſes were added for allowing thoſe neceſſaries, mentioned above, to be imported in foreign built ſhips, and from any ſtate in amity with his majeſty, either into Great Britain or Ireland; and for exporting from Southampton or Exeter to the Iſle of Man, for the uſe of the inhabitants, a quantity of wheat, barley, oats, meal, or flour, not exceeding two thouſand five hundred quarters. An. 1757.

The commons would have ſtill improved their humanity, had they contrived and eſtabliſhed ſome effectual method to puniſh thoſe unfeeling villains, who, by engroſſing and hoarding up great quantities of grain, had created this artificial ſcarcity, and deprived their fellow-creatures of bread, with a view to their own private advantage. Upon a ſubſequent report of the committee, the houſe reſolved, that, to prevent the high price of wheat and bread, no ſpirits ſhould be diſtilled from wheat for a limited time. While the bill, formed on this reſolution, was in embryo, a petition was preſented to the houſe by the brewers of London, Weſtminſter, Southwark, and parts adjacent, repreſenting, that, when the reſolution paſſed, the price of malt, which was before too high, immediately roſe to ſuch a degree, that the petitioners found themſelves

An. 1757. ſelves utterly incapable of carrying on buſineſs, at the price malt then bore, occaſioned, as they conceived, from an apprehenſion of the neceſſity the diſtillers would be under to make uſe of the beſt pale malt, and ſubſtitute the beſt barley in lieu of wheat: that, in ſuch a caſe, the markets would not be able to ſupply a ſufficient quantity of barley for the demands of both profeſſions, beſides other neceſſary uſes: they therefore prayed, that, in regard to the public revenue, to which the trade of the petitioners ſo largely contributed, proper meaſures might be taken for preventing the public loſs, and relieving their particular diſtreſs. The houſe would not lend a deaf ear to a remonſtrance in which the revenue was concerned. The members appointed to prepare the bill, immediately received inſtructions to make proviſion in it to reſtrain, for a limited time, the diſtilling of barley, malt, and all grain whatſoever. The bill was framed accordingly; but did not paſs without ſtrenuous oppoſition. To this prohibition it was objected, that there are always large quantities of wheat and barley in the kingdom ſo much damaged, as to be unfit for any uſe but the diſtillery; conſequently a reſtriction of this nature would ruin many farmers, and others employed in the trade of malting. Particular intereſts, however, muſt often be ſacrificed to the welfare of the community; and the preſent diſtreſs prevailed over the proſpect of this diſadvantage. If they had allowed any ſort of grain to be diſtilled, it would have been impoſſible to prevent the diſtilling of every kind. The prohibition was limited to two months; but at the expiration of that term, the ſcarcity ſtill continuing,

tinuing, it was protracted by a new bill to the eleventh day of December, with a proviſo, impowering his majeſty to put an end to it at any time after the eleventh day of May, if ſuch a ſtep ſhould be judged for the advantage of the kingdom. Theſe were but temporary expedients: but the committee, continuing to ſit, adopted ſome other reſolutions, which may be productive of more efficacious remedies. An. 1757.

Motion for the militia-bill.

The next bill that engaged the attention of the commons, was a meaſure of the utmoſt national importance, though ſecretly diſliked by many individuals of the legiſlature, who nevertheleſs did not venture to avow their diſapprobation. The eſtabliſhment of a militia * was a very popular and de-

* The militia-bill prepared and brought in by theſe gentlemen enacted, That the lieutenants of counties ſhould appoint deputy-lieutenants to the number of twenty or more for each county, every deputy poſſeſſing an eſtate of four hundred a year, or being heir apparent of a poſſeſſion worth double that ſum: that the lieutenant ſhall command the militia of his own county, and grant commiſſions to lieutenant-colonels, majors, and other officers, whoſe names ſhould be certified to the king: that the qualification of a lieutenant-colonel ſhould be three hundred pounds a year in actual poſſeſſion, or double that eſtate in reverſion: that a captain ſhould poſſeſs two hundred pounds per annum, or be heir to four hundred, or ſon to a perſon who poſſeſſes, or did poſſeſs at his death, a fortune amounting to ſix hundred pounds a year: that the enjoyment of one hundred pounds per annum ſhould be a ſufficient qualification for a lieutenant, or his being the ſon of a man who poſſeſſes, or did at his death poſſeſs two hundred; that of an enſign not exceeding the half of that value: that majors, captains, lieutenants, and enſigns might be promoted on extraordinary occaſions; that the king might diſplace any deputy-lieutenant or officer, and the lieutenants appoint others in their ſtead: that every deputy or officer ſhould give in his qualification to the clerk of the peace, and take the oaths to the government within ſix months after he ſhall begin to act,

An. 1757. deſirable object, but attended with numberleſs difficulties, and a competition of intereſts which it was

act, under the penalty of two hundred pounds, to be paid by all above the degree of captain, and of one hundred pounds by thoſe of an inferior rank: that peers ſhould be exempted from ſerving by themſelves or their ſubſtitutes: but they and their heirs-apparent might be appointed deputy-lieutenants, or commiſſion officers; and their qualifications in that caſe needed not be left with the clerk of the peace; but, on taking the oaths, they might act without being otherwiſe qualified: that a commiſſion in the militia ſhould not vacate a ſeat in parliament: that at the end of four years a number of officers ſhould be diſcharged, equal to the number of thoſe, who, being duly qualified, ſhould ſollicit for admiſſion: that each regiment ſhould be provided with an adjutant who had ſerved in the regular forces, and retain his rank in the army; and every company ſhould be ſupplied with two ſerjeants or more from the ſtanding army, who ſhould be intitled to the hoſpital at Chelſea; and ſerjeants appointed from that hoſpital ſhould be readmitted on producing certificates of good behaviour: that every county in England and Wales ſhould be obliged to find a certain number of men, according to the proportions herein ſpecified; and that to eighty private men there ſhould be no more than one captain, one lieutenant, and one enſign: that the lieutenant of each county, with two deputy-lieutenants, or three or more deputy-lieutenants, in the abſence of the lieutenant, ſhould meet on the twelfth day of July in the preſent year, and on the firſt Tueſday in June of every ſubſequent year; and require the head conſtables to deliver in a liſt of all the men between the age of eighteen and fifty, in their ſeveral diſtricts, except peers, officers of the militia, officers of the regular forces, or garriſons, members of either univerſity, clergymen, teachers of ſeparate meetings, peace and pariſh officers, articled clerks, apprentices, and ſeamen, noting in the liſt the men labouring under any bodily infirmity: that every deputy-conſtable, or other petty officer, ſhould tranſmit to the head conſtable the liſt of his diviſion, having firſt affixed it to the door of the church or chapel for one Sunday: that on the day appointed for receiving theſe liſts, the lieutenants and deputy-lieutenants ſhould ſettle the number to be taken from each hundred or diviſion of the county: that they ſhould then ſubdivide themſelves, and three or more deputies, or two deputies with one juſtice of the peace, or one de-

was impoſſible to reconcile. It had formerly been an inexhauſtible ſource of contention between the crown An. 1757.

deputy with two juſtices, ſhould meet within a month in every ſuch diviſion, to hear the remonſtrances of thoſe who think themſelves intitled to exemption, and, upon any juſt cauſe, correct their liſts: that they ſhould ſettle the number to be raiſed in each pariſh, and chuſe the individuals by lot: that, within three weeks afterwards, the perſon ſo choſen ſhould take the oaths, and enter into the militia for three years, or bring a man to ſerve as his ſubſtitute; or, laſtly, forfeit ten pounds, and be liable, at the end of three years, to ſerve again: that the deputies and juſtices, according to the forementioned proportion, ſhould meet occaſionally in their ſeveral ſubdiviſions, and annually on the Tueſday before Michaelmas; then, if any perſon thirty five years old, or any perſon whatſoever, ſhould deſire his diſcharge, and ſhew juſt cauſe for it, they ſhould grant his requeſt, and chooſe another by lot in his room; the vacation by death to be filled up in the ſame manner: that a militia-man removing to another pariſh, ſhould ſerve the remainder of his time in his new ſettlement: that new liſts of men qualified for ſervice, ſhould be made annually: that a new body be choſen every third year, ſo that all perſons duly qualified might ſerve in their turns; and a liſt of the perſons ſerving in each pariſh ſhould be tranſmitted to the lieutenant: that any officer neglecting to return his liſt, or making a falſe or partial liſt, ſhould be committed for a month to the common gaol, or pay a fine not exceeding five pounds, nor under forty ſhillings: that every private man, ſerving for himſelf, ſhould be exempted from ſtatute-work, from ſerving peace or pariſh offices, or in the regular forces; and he that had ſerved three years, ſhould not ſerve again, until it ſhould come to his turn by rotation: that married men, having perſonally ſerved in the militia, if called out in caſe of invaſion or rebellion, ſhould be intitled to the ſame privilege of ſetting up trades in any place of Great Britain and Ireland, as by act of parliament is granted to mariners and ſoldiers: that a quaker, refuſing to ſerve, ſhould hire another man in his ſtead; and if he neglects, a ſum ſhould be levied upon him by diſtreſs ſufficient for that purpoſe: that, within one month after the return of the liſts, the lieutenants and two deputies, or three deputies without the lieutenant, ſhould form the militia of each county into regiments, conſiſting of not more than twelve, nor leſs than ſeven companies, of forty men each, appointing the officers

An. 1757. crown and the commons; but now both apparently concurred in rendering it ſerviceable to the com-

ficers to each company: that on the firſt Monday in the months of March, April, May, June, July, Auguſt, September, and October, they ſhould be exerciſed in half companies; on the third Monday of the ſaid months in companies; and once every year on the Tueſday, Wedneſday, Thurſday, and Friday, of Whitſun-week, in whole regiments: that no man ſhould be exerciſed in half company or company, more than ſix miles from his own houſe: that notice of the time and place of meeting ſhould be ſent by the lieutenants or deputies to the high conſtables, and by them to the petty conſtables, who ſhould fix it upon the doors of their reſpective churches: that the lieutenant of the county ſhould appoint at pleaſure a regimental clerk, a ſerjeant-major, and a drum-major: that, ſhould it be thought inconvenient on account of fairs or markets, to exerciſe the militia on the day fixed by this act, order might be made by three deputies, or two deputies and one juſtice, or one deputy and three juſtices, for exerciſing them on any other days, Sundays excepted: that in counties where the militia does not amount to ſeven companies, or one regiment, they ſhould be formed into a battalion under the lieutenant and one field officer; one adjutant being a ſubaltern in the army, a ſerjeant-major, a drum-major, and a clerk ſhould be appointed for them, and they ſhould be exerciſed as a compleat regiment: but where a whole or half company cannot be aſſembled, they might be exerciſed in ſmaller parties, as the lieutenant or deputies ſhould direct; that one commiſſioned officer ſhould attend the exerciſe of the half company, and inſpect their arms and accoutrements: that the arms and cloaths of the militia ſhould be carefully kept by the captain of each company, in cheſts provided by the pariſh where they are depoſited; and the muſkets be marked with an M and the name of the county: that the king's lieutenants or colonels ſhould have the power to ſeize or remove, whither they ſhould think proper, the arms, cloaths, and accoutrements, when neceſſary to the publick peace: that any perſon intruſted with the cuſtody of any arms or cloaths, delivering them out, unleſs for exerciſe, or by command of his ſuperior officer, or by order of any juſtice of the peace, under his hand and ſeal, might, by two juſtices be committed to the county-gaol for ſix months: that no pay, arms, or cloathing, ſhould be iſſued, nor an adjutant or ſerjeant be appointed, until four fifths of the men ſhould have been choſen, and the officers have taken out their commiſ-

ſions;

commonwealth; though ſome acquieſced in the ſcheme, who were not at all hearty in its favour. An. 1757.

On

ſions: that the officer who ſuperintends the exerciſe ſhould call over the liſt, and certify to a juſtice the names of thoſe who may be abſent from exerciſe: that the juſtice ſhould examine the excuſe offered, and, ſhould it be inſufficient, puniſh the defaulter for the firſt offence by a fine of two ſhillings, or ſetting him in the ſtocks for one hour; for the ſecond, fine him double the ſum, or ſend him for four days to the houſe of correction; exact ſix ſhillings for every ſubſequent offence, or commit him to the houſe of correction for any time not exceeding one month: that every man, convicted by oath before a juſtice of being drunk at the time of exerciſe, ſhould forfeit ten ſhillings, or ſit an hour in the ſtocks: that every man convicted in the ſame manner of inſolence or diſobedience to his officers, ſhould, for his firſt offence, pay two ſhillings and ſix-pence; and, in default of payment, be ſent to the houſe of correction for four days; for the ſecond, be fined double that ſum, or committed for ſeven days; and for every offence afterwards, be fined in forty ſhillings, and committed to the houſe of correction for any time not exceeding one month, and not leſs than a fortnight: that any man who ſhall ſell, pawn, or loſe his arms or accoutrements, ſhould be fined a ſum not exceeding three pounds; or, in default of payment, be committed to the houſe of correction for one month; and if he cannot then raiſe the ſum, for three months: that he who ſhall neglect to return his arms in good order, after exerciſe, the ſame or the next day, ſhall pay a fine of two ſhillings and ſix-pence, and be ſent to the houſe of correction for ſeven days; if he neglects to return them by Monday after Whitſun week, he ſhall forfeit four ſhillings, or be ſent to the houſe of correction for fourteen days; and the perſon intruſted by the captain with the care of the arms and cloaths, omitting to complain of ſuch neglect, ſhall forfeit twenty ſhillings: that any ſoldier or non-commiſſioned officer, abſenting himſelf from his annual exerciſe, ſhould forfeit ten ſhillings a day, or be committed for one month to the houſe of correction: that any non-commiſſioned officer, convicted upon oath of being negligent in his duty, diſobedient or inſolent to the adjutant, or other ſuperior officer, ſhould be fined by a juſtice in a ſum not exceeding thirty ſhillings; or, in default of payment, be committed for fourteen days to the houſe of correction, from whence he may be diſcharged by the lieutenant: that any perſon, un-

An. 1757. On the fourth day of December, a motion was made for the bill, by colonel George Townſhend, eldeſt

lawfully buying or receiving any arms or accoutrements belonging to the militia, ſhould incur the penalty of five pounds; in default be impriſoned for three months, or publickly whipped at the diſcretion of the juſtice: that no man ſhould be cenſured for abſence occaſioned by attending an election: that the militia ſhould be ſubject, in military affairs, to their own officers; and, in civil affairs, to the civil magiſtrate: that all pariſh officers ſhould aſſiſt the lieutenant and juſtices: that, in caſe of actual invaſion, or upon imminent danger thereof, or in caſe of rebellion, the king, firſt notifying the occaſion to parliament, if then ſitting, or, in their receſs, to the privy council, and to the people by proclamation, might direct the lieutenant, or any three deputy lieutenants for each county, to draw out their regiments, which ſhould march by his majeſty's order to any part of the kingdom, under the command of ſuch generals as he ſhould appoint; the militia receiving in this time of ſervice the ſame pay given to the regular regiments of foot, and their officers holding the ſame rank with the regular officers of the ſame denomination: that the militia, during the time of ſervice, ſhould be liable to the law martial then ſubſiſting; and that any man wounded, ſhould be intitled to the proviſion of Chelſea hoſpital; but a militia man, not appearing, or refuſing to march on ſuch an occaſion, ſhould forfeit forty pounds, or be committed to the county gaol for twelve months: that in caſe of actual invaſion, or upon imminent danger thereof, and in caſe of rebellion, if the parliament be not ſitting, nor its adjournment or prorogation to expire in fourteen days, the king might ſummon it to meet on any day, upon giving fourteen days notice; and they ſhould meet accordingly for the diſpatch of buſineſs: that the militia and regular troops ſhould be tried in courts martial, each by their own officers; and that the militia, during their annual exerciſe, ſhould be billeted as regular troops: that in caſe of invaſion or rebellion, the juſtices, in conſequence of an order from the king, or any chief commiſſion officer of the militia, ſhould iſſue warrants to the chief conſtables of hundreds, to provide carriages for the arms, cloaths, accoutrements, powder, &c. which carriages ſhould be payed for in ready money by the officer demanding them, after the following rates: one ſhilling per mile for a waggon with five horſes, or a wain with ſix oxen, or with four oxen and two horſes; ninepence per mile for a cart with four horſes; and ſo in pro-

eldeſt ſon of the lord viſcount Townſhend, a gen- An. 1757.
leman of courage, ſenſe, and probity; endued with

proportion: perſons having ſuch carriages were required to furniſh them for one day's journey only; and any chief conſtable, neglecting his duty in the premiſes, was made liable to a fine not exceeding forty ſhillings, nor leſs than the half of that ſum, to be levied by diſtreſs: that the militia ſhould not be, on any occaſion, compelled to march out of the kingdom: that in all cities and towns, which are counties in themſelves, and have been accuſtomed to raiſe their own militia, the lieutenant or chief magiſtrate ſhould appoint five deputy-lieutenants, to exerciſe the ſame power veſted in the other deputies: that in theſe ſmaller counties the qualification for deputies, colonels, lieutenant-colonels and majors, ſhall be for each a poſſeſſion in land to the value of three hundred pounds a year, or a perſonal eſtate amounting to five thouſand pounds: that every captain ſhould poſſeſs half that fortune; and every lieutenant or enſign have fifty pounds yearly rent, or ſeven hundred and fifty pounds perſonal eſtate: that one half of the real eſtates poſſeſſed by the officer of county towns, muſt be in ſuch city or town, or within the county at large, to which that city or town is united, for the purpoſes of this act: that the penalty for acting, if not qualified, ſhould be one hundred pounds for a deputy-lieutenant or field officer, and half that ſum for all under: that all fines and forfeitures ſhould be payed to the regimental clerk, and formed into a common ſtock in each ſubdiviſion, of which an account ſhould be given to three deputies, or two deputies and one juſtice, or one deputy and two juſtices, who ſhould apply it to the erection of butts, and the proviſion of gunpowder to be uſed in ſhooting at marks: the remainder to be diſtributed in prizes to the beſt markſmen, or employed in any other way for the uſe of the militia: that perſons committed to the houſe of correction upon this act, ſhould be kept to hard labour: that proof of qualification, in all ſuits, ſhould lie on the defendant; and no order made, by virtue of this act, by a lieutenant, deputy, or juſtice, ſhould be removed by certiorari, nor execution be ſuperſeded thereby: that where a pariſh extends into two counties, its militia ſhould ſerve in that county where the church ſtands: that thoſe who are trained and muſtered in the docks, ſhould not ſerve in the militia; that all former acts, relating to the militia, ſhould be repealed by this act, except in caſes which are herein directed to be ſubject to a former act: finally, that this act

An. 1757. with penetration to diſcern, and honeſty to purſue, the real intereſt of his country; in defiance of power, in contempt of private advantages. Leave being given to bring in a bill for the better ordering of the militia forces in the ſeveral counties of England, the taſk of preparing it was allotted to Mr. Townſhend, and a conſiderable number of the moſt able members in the houſe, comprehending his own brother, Mr. Charles Townſhend, whoſe genius ſhone with diſtinguiſhed luſtre: he was keen, diſcerning, eloquent, and accurate; poſſeſſed a remarkable vivacity of parts, with a ſurpriſing ſolidity of underſtanding; was a wit without arrogance, a patriot without prejudice, and a courtier without dependance.

Petitions for and againſt it.

While the militia-bill remained under conſideration of the houſe, a petition for a conſtitutional and well-regulated militia was preſented by the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the king's town and pariſh of Maidſtone in Kent, in common-council aſſembled. At the ſame time remonſtrances were offered by the proteſtant diſſenting miniſters, of the three denominations, in and about the cities of London and Weſtminſter; by the proteſtant diſſenters of Shrewſbury; the diſſenting miniſters of Devonſhire; the proteſtant diſſenters, being freeholders and burgeſſes of the town, and county of the town of Nottingham, joined with other inhabitants of the church of England; expreſſing their apprehenſion, that, in the bill then depending, it might be propoſed to enact, that the ſaid militia

ſhould remain in force for the term of five years. The other clauſes contain proviſions reſpecting the privileges or conveniencies of particular places.

ſhould

ſhould be exerciſed on the Lord's day, commonly called Sunday; and praying, that no clauſe for ſuch purpoſe might paſs into a law. Though nothing could be more ridiculouſly fanatic and impertinent than the declaration of ſuch a ſcruple, againſt a practice ſo laudable and neceſſary, in a country where that day of the week is generally ſpent in merry-making, riot, and debauchery, the houſe payed ſo much regard to the ſqueamiſh conſciences of thoſe puritanical petitioners, that Monday was pitched upon for the day of exerciſe to the militia, though on ſuch working days they might be much more profitably employed, both for themſelves and their country; and that no religious pretence ſhould be left for oppoſing the progreſs and execution of the bill, proper clauſes were inſerted for the relief of the quakers. Another petition and counter-petition were delivered by the magiſtrates, freeholders, and burgeſſes of the town of Nottingham, in relation to their particular franchiſes; which were accordingly conſidered in framing the bill. An. 1757.

After mature deliberation, and divers alterations, it paſſed the lower houſe, and was ſent to the lords for their concurrence: here it underwent ſeveral amendments, one of which was the reduction of the number of militia-men to one half of what the commons had propoſed; namely, to thirty-two thouſand three hundred and forty men, for the whole kingdom of England and Wales. The amendments, being canvaſſed in the lower houſe, met with ſome oppoſition, and divers conferences with their lordſhips enſued: at length, however, the two houſes agreed to every article, and the Altered by the lords.

An. 1757. bill ſoon received the royal ſanction. No proviſion, however, was made for cloaths, arms, accoutrements and pay: had regulations been made for theſe purpoſes, the act would have become a money-bill, in which the lords could have made no amendment: in order therefore to prevent any difference between the two houſes, on a diſpute of privileges not yet determined, and that the houſe of peers might make what amendments they ſhould think expedient, the commons left the expence of the militia to be regulated in a ſubſequent bill, during the following ſeſſion, when they ſhould with more certainty compute what ſum would be neceſſary for theſe purpoſes. After all, the bill ſeems to be crude, imperfect, and ineffectual; and the promoters of it were well aware of its defects: but they were apprehenſive that it would have been dropped altogether, had they inſiſted upon the ſcheme's being executed in its full extent. They were eager to ſeize this opportunity of trying an experiment, which might afterwards be improved to a greater national advantage; and therefore they acquieſced in many reſtrictions and alterations, which otherwiſe would not have been adopted.

Bill for quartering the foreign troops.

The next meaſure that fell under the conſideration of the houſe, was rendered neceſſary by the inhoſpitable perſeverance of the publicans and innholders, who conceived themſelves not obliged by law to receive or give quarters in their houſes to any foreign troops; and accordingly refuſed admittance to the Heſſian auxiliaries, who began to be dreadfully incommoded by the ſeverity of the weather. This objection implying an attack upon the prerogative, the government did not think fit, at this

this juncture, to diſpute any other way than by procuring a new law in favour of thoſe foreigners. It was intituled, a bill to make proviſion for quartering the foreign troops now in this kingdom, prepared by lord Barrington, the chancellor of the Exchequer, and the ſolicitor-general, and immemediately paſſed without oppoſition. An. 1757.

This ſtep being taken, another bill was brought in for the regulation of marine-forces, while aſhore. This was almoſt a tranſcript of the mutiny act, with this material difference: it impowered the admiralty to grant commiſſions for holding general courts-martial, and to do every thing, and in the ſame manner, as his majeſty is impowered to do by the uſual mutiny bill; conſequently every clauſe was adopted without queſtion. Another for the regulation of marine forces, while aſhore.

The ſame favourable reception was given to a bill for the more ſpeedy and effectual recruiting his majeſty's land-forces and marines; a law which threw into the hands of many worthleſs magiſtrates an additional power of oppreſſing their fellow-creatures: all juſtices of the peace, commiſſioners for the land-tax, magiſtrates of corporations and boroughs, were impowered to meet by direction of the ſecretary at war, communicated in precepts iſſued by the high ſheriffs, or their deputies, within their reſpective diviſions, and at their uſual place of meeting, to qualify themſelves for the execution of the act: then they were required to appoint the times and places for their ſucceeding meetings; to iſſue precepts to the proper officers for theſe ſucceeding meetings; to give notice of the time and place of every meeting to ſuch military officer, as, by notice from the ſecretary at war, ſhould be di- A third for the more ſpeedy and effectual recruiting his majeſty's land-forces and marines.

An. 1757. rected to attend that ſervice. At theſe meetings the commiſſioners were impowered to receive all ſuch men as ſhould voluntarily offer to inliſt in his majeſty's ſervice on or before the firſt day of May; and, upon their being approved by the military officer attending, to gratify each volunteer with a bounty of three pounds, to be payed by the receiver-general or collector of the land-tax out of the money in his hands; ſuch being the condition of his inliſting, that after having ſerved three years, if the war ſhould then be ended, otherwiſe at the end of the war, he ſhould be intitled to his diſcharge. They were alſo impowered to impreſs into the ſervice all able-bodied, idle, and diſorderly perſons, who did not exerciſe and induſtriouſly proſecute ſome lawful occupation, or had not ſubſtance ſufficient for their own maintenance. For this purpoſe they were veſted with power to make ſearch for and apprehend all ſuch perſons as ſhould appear to be within the deſcription of the act: even church-wardens, and other pariſh and town-officers, partook of this power, without deriving any authority from the commiſſioners; and it ordained, that all men ſo apprehended, adjudged by the commiſſioners, at their next meeting, to be within the deſcription of the act, if approved by the military officer in attendance, ſhould be delivered over to the ſaid officer, who ſhould pay twenty ſhillings, or, if ſuch impreſſed man had a wife or family, a ſum not exceeding forty ſhillings, to be applied to the uſe of the pariſh; unleſs there was an informer, who, in that caſe, would be intitled to ten ſhillings of the money. The act preſcribed, that none ſhould be impreſſed but able-bodied men, free from ruptures

or

or bodily infirmity, not a reputed papiſt, nor under the ſize of five feet four inches, or ſhort of ſeventeen years of age, or turned of five and forty, or poſſeſſed of a vote in the election of a member to ſerve in parliament for any place in Great Britain. A perſon, thus impreſſed, was, at the end of five years, or termination of the war, intitled to his diſcharge: but no private ſoldier, duly inliſted by this act, might, during the time he ſhould remain in Great Britain, be diſcharged without the conſent of the colonel, or field-officer commanding the regiment, in writing under his hand and ſeal; or, if a marine, without the conſent of the admiralty; the officer, diſcharging him in any other manner, being liable to be caſhiered. The bounty-money advanced by the commiſſioners of the land-tax, was ordered to be repayed into the Exchequer by the reſpective paymaſters of the forces; and the time of the bill's continuing in force was limited to the end of the next ſeſſion of parliament; ſuch a ſhort term being preſcribed for volunteers to enter, becauſe it was neceſſary to complete the regiments by the firſt of May; and the legiſlature rightly judged that ſuch a limitation would induce all thoſe that might think themſelves in danger of being impreſſed to enter voluntarily before that day, in order to intitle themſelves to the bounty granted by parliament. An. 1757.

The annual bill for preventing mutiny and deſertion met with no objections, and indeed contained nothing eſſentially different from that which had paſſed in the laſt ſeſſion.

The next law enacted was for further preventing embezzlement of goods and apparel by

thoſe

An. 1757. Act relating to pawnbrokers and gaming-houſes.

thoſe with whom they are intruſted, and putting a ſtop to the practice of gaming in public houſes. By this bill a penalty was inflicted on pawnbrokers, in a ſummary way, for receiving goods, knowing them not to be the property of the pledger, and pawned without the authority of the owner. It was enacted, that perſons pawning, exchanging, or diſpoſing of goods, without leave of the owner, ſhould ſuffer in the penalty of twenty ſhillings; and, on non-payment, be committed for fourteen days to hard labour; afterwards, if the money could not then be payed, be whipped publicly in the houſe of correction, or ſuch other place as the juſtice of peace ſhould appoint, on publication of the proſecutor: that every pawnbroker ſhould make entry of the perſon's name and place of abode who pledges any goods with him; and the pledger, if he required it, ſhould have a duplicate of that entry: that a pawnbroker, receiving linnen or apparel intruſted to others to be waſhed or mended, ſhould forfeit double the ſum lent upon it, and reſtore the goods: that upon oath of any perſon whoſe goods are unlawfully pawned or exchanged, the juſtice ſhould iſſue a warrant to ſearch the ſuſpected perſon's houſe; and, upon refuſal of admittance, the officer might break open the door: that goods pawned for any ſum not exceeding ten pounds, might be recovered within two years, the owner making oath of the pawning, and tendering the principal, intereſt, and charges: that goods remaining unredeemed for two years, ſhould be forfeited and ſold, the overplus to be accounted for to the owner on demand.

With

With reſpect to gaming, the act ordained, that all publicans ſuffering journeymen, labourers, ſervants, or apprentices to game with cards, dice, ſhuffle-boards, miſſiſſippi, or billiard-tables, ſkittles, nine-pins, &c. ſhould forfeit forty ſhillings for the firſt offence, and for every ſubſequent offence ten pounds ſhall be levied by diſtreſs. An. 1757.

Laws relating to the wages of weavers.

Divers inconveniences having reſulted from the interpoſition of juſtices, who, in purſuance of an act of parliament paſſed in the preſent reign, aſſumed the right of eſtabliſhing rates for the payment of wages to weavers, ſeveral petitions were offered to the houſe of commons, repreſenting the evil conſequences of ſuch an eſtabliſhment; and although theſe arguments were anſwered and oppoſed in counter-petitions, the commons actuated by a laudable concern for the intereſt of the woollen manufacture, after due deliberation, removed the grievance by a new bill, repealing ſo much of the former act as impowered juſtices of the peace to make rates for the payment of wages. It likewiſe imported, that all contracts or agreements made between clothiers and weavers, in reſpect to wages, ſhould, from and after the firſt of May, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſeven, be valid, notwithſtanding any rate eſtabliſhed, or to be eſtabliſhed: but that theſe contracts or agreements ſhould extend only to the actual prices or rates of workmanſhip or wages, and not the payment thereof in any other manner than in money: and that if any clothier ſhould refuſe or neglect to pay the weaver the wages or price agreed on, in money, within two days after the work ſhould be performed and delivered, the ſame being demanded,

An. 1757. manded, ſhould forfeit forty ſhillings for every ſuch offence.

to the improvement of the Britiſh fiſhery.

The commons were not more forward to provide ſupplies for proſecuting the war with vigour, than ready to adopt new regulations for the advantage of trade and manufacture. The ſociety of the free Britiſh fiſhery preſented a petition, alledging, that they had employed the ſum of one hundred thirty thouſand three hundred and five pounds eight ſhillings and ſix pence, together with the intire produce of their fiſh, and all the moneys ariſing from the ſeveral branches allowed on the tonnage of their ſhipping, and on the exportation of their fiſh, in carrying on the ſaid fiſhery; and that, from their being obliged, in the infancy of the undertaking, to incur a much larger expence than was at that time foreſeen, they now found themſelves ſo far reduced in their capital, as to be utterly incapable of further proſecuting the fiſheries with any hope of ſucceſs, unleſs indulged with the further aſſiſtance of parliament. They prayed therefore, that, towards enabling them to carry on the ſaid fiſheries, they might have liberty to make uſe of ſuch nets as they ſhould find beſt adapted to the ſaid fiſheries; each buſs, nevertheleſs, carrying to ſea the ſame quantity and depth of netting, which, by the fiſhery acts, they were then bound to carry: that the bounty of thirty ſhillings per ton, allowed by the ſaid acts on the veſſels employed in the fiſhery, might be increaſed; and for as much as many of the ſtock-proprietors were unable to advance any further ſum for proſecuting this branch of commerce, and others unwilling, in the preſent ſituation, and under the preſent reſtraints,

ſtraints, to riſque any further ſum in the under- An. 1757.
taking, that the ſtock of the ſociety, by the ſaid acts made unalienable, except in caſe of death or bankruptcy, for a term of years, might forthwith be made transferable; and that the petitioners might be at liberty, between the intervals of the fiſhing ſeaſons, to employ the buſſes in ſuch a manner as they ſhould find for the advantage of the ſociety. While the committee was employed in deliberating on the particulars of this remonſtrance, another was delivered from the free Britiſh fiſhery-chamber of Whitehaven in Cumberland, repreſenting, that, as the law then ſtood, they went to Shetland, and returned at a great expence and loſs of time; and, while the war continued, durſt not ſtay there to fiſh, beſides being obliged to run the moſt imminent riſques by going and returning without convoy: that, ever ſince the inſtitution of the preſent fiſhery, experience had fully ſhewn the fiſhery of Shetland not worth following, as thereby the petitioners had loſt two months of a much better fiſhery in St. George's channel, within one day's ſail of Whitehaven: they took notice, that the free Britiſh fiſhery ſociety had applied to the houſe for further aſſiſtance and relief; and prayed that Campbel-town in Argyleſhire might be appointed the place of rendezvous for the buſſes belonging to Whitehaven for the ſummer, as well as the winter fiſhery, that they might be enabled to fiſh with greater advantage. The committee, having conſidered the matter of both petitions, were of opinion, that the petitioners ſhould be at liberty to uſe ſuch nets as they ſhould find beſt adapted to the white herring fiſhery: that the bounty of thirty

An. 1757. ſhillings per ton, ſhould be augmented to fifty: that the petitioners ſhould be allowed, during the intervals of the fiſhing ſeaſons, to employ their veſſels in any other lawful buſineſs, provided they ſhall have been employed in herring fiſhing, during the proper ſeaſons: that they might uſe ſuch barrels for packing the fiſh as they then uſed, or might thereafter find beſt adapted for that purpoſe: that they ſhould have liberty to make uſe of any waſte or uncultivated land, one hundred yards at the leaſt, above high water mark, for the purpoſe of drying their nets; and that Campbeltown would be the moſt proper and convenient place for the rendezvous of the buſſes belonging to Whitehaven. This laſt reſolution, however, was not inſerted in the bill which contained the other five, and in a little time received the royal aſſent.

Act for importing American iron, duty free.

Such are the connexions, dependencies, and relations ſubſiſting between the mechanical arts, agriculture, and manufactures of Great Britain, that it requires ſtudy, deliberation, and enquiry in the legiſlature to diſcern and diſtinguiſh the whole ſcope and conſequences of many projects offered for the benefit of the commonwealth. The ſociety of merchant adventurers in the city of Briſtol, alledged, in a petition to the houſe of commons, that great quantities of bar iron were imported into Great Britain from Sweden, Ruſſia, and other parts, chiefly purchaſed with ready money, ſome of which iron was exported again to Africa and other places; and the reſt wrought up by the manufacturers. They affirmed that bar iron, imported from North America, would anſwer the ſame purpoſes; and the importation of it tend not

only to the great advantage of the kingdom, by increaſing its ſhipping and navigation; but alſo to the benefit of the Britiſh colonies: that, by an act paſſed in the twenty-third year of his preſent majeſty's reign, the importation of bar iron from America into the port of London duty free, was permitted: but its being carried coaſtways, or farther by land than ten miles, had been prohibited; ſo that ſeveral very conſiderable manufacturing towns were deprived of the uſe of American iron, and the out-ports prevented from employing it in their export commerce: they requeſted, therefore, that bar iron might be imported from North America into Great Britain, duty free, by all his majeſty's ſubjects. This requeſt being reinforced by many other petitions from different parts of the kingdom, other claſſes of men, who thought their ſeveral intereſts would be affected by ſuch a meaſure, took the alarm; and, in divers counter petitions, ſpecified many ill conſequences which they alledged would ariſe from its being enacted into a law. Pamphlets were publiſhed on both ſides of the queſtion, and violent diſputes were kindled upon this ſubject, which was juſtly deemed a matter of national importance. The oppoſers of the bill obſerved, that large quantities of iron were yearly produced at home, and employed multitudes of poor people, there being no leſs than one hundred and nine forges in England and Wales, beſides thoſe erected in Scotland, the whole producing eighteen thouſand tons of iron: that as the mines in Great Britain are inexhauſtible, the produce would of late years have been conſiderably increaſed, had not the people been kept under

An. 1757.

An. 1757. under continual apprehenſion of ſeeing American iron admitted duty free: a ſuppoſition which had prevented the traders from extending their works, and diſcouraged many from engaging in this branch of traffic: they alledged that the iron works already carried on in England, occaſioned a conſumption of one hundred and ninety-eight thouſand cords of wood, produced in coppices that grow upon barren lands, which could not otherwiſe be turned to any good account: that as the coppices afford ſhade, and preſerve a moiſture in the ground, the paſture is more valuable with the wood, than it would be if the coppices were grubbed up; conſequently all the eſtates where theſe now grow would ſink in their yearly value: that theſe coppices now cultivated and preſerved for the uſe of the iron works, are likewiſe abſolutely neceſſary for the manufacture of leather, as they furniſh bark for the tanners; and that, according to the management of theſe coppices, they produced a great number of timber trees ſo neceſſary for the purpoſes of building. They aſſerted, that neither the American iron, nor any that had yet been found in Great Britain, was ſo proper for converting into Steel, as that which comes from Sweden, particularly that ſort called, ore ground; but as there are mines in the northern parts of Britain, nearly in the ſame latitude with thoſe of Sweden, furniſhed with ſufficient quantities of wood, and rivers for mills and engines, it was hardly to be doubted but that people would find metal of the ſame quality, and, in a few years, be able to prevent the neceſſity of importing iron either from Sweden or Ruſſia. They inferred, that American iron

iron could never interfere with that which Great Britain imported from Sweden, becauſe it was not fit for edge-tools, anchors, chain-plates, and other particulars neceſſary in ſhip-building; nor diminiſh the importation of Ruſſia iron, which was not only harder than the American and Britiſh, but alſo could be afforded cheaper than that brought from our own plantations, even though the duty of this laſt ſhould be removed. The importation of American iron, therefore, duty free, could interfere with no other ſort but that produced in Britain, with which, by means of this advantage, it would claſh ſo much, as to put a ſtop in a little time to all the iron works now carried on in the kingdom, and reduce to beggary a great number of families whom they ſupport. To theſe objections the favourers of the bill ſollicited, replied, that when a manufacture is much more valuable than the rough materials, and theſe cannot be produced at home in ſufficient quantities, and at ſuch a price as is conſiſtent with the preſervation of the manufacture, it is the intereſt of the legiſlature to admit a free importation of theſe materials, even from foreign countries, although it ſhould put an end to the production of that material in this iſland: that as the neighbours of Great Britain are now more attentive than ever to their commercial intereſts, and endeavouring to manufacture their rough materials at home, this nation muſt take every method for lowering the price of materials, otherwiſe in a few years it will loſe the manufacture; and, inſtead of ſupplying other countries, be furniſhed by them with all the fine toys and utenſils made of ſteel and iron: that being in danger of An. 1757.

An. 1757. loſing not only the manufacture but the produce of iron, unleſs it can be procured at a cheaper rate than that for which it is ſold at preſent; the only way of attaining this end, is by diminiſhing the duty payable upon the importation of foreign iron, or by rendering it neceſſary for the undertakers of the iron mines in Great Britain to ſell their produce cheaper than it has been for ſome years afforded: that the moſt effectual method for this purpoſe is to raiſe up a rival, by permitting a free importation of all ſorrs of iron from the American plantations: that American iron can never be ſold ſo cheap as that of Britain can be afforded; for, in the colonies, labour of all kinds is much dearer than in England: if a man employs his own ſlaves, he muſt reckon in his charge a great deal more than the common intereſt of their purchaſe money, becauſe when one of them dies or eſcapes from his maſter, he loſes both intereſt and principal: that the common intereſt of money in the plantations is conſiderably higher than in England, conſequently no man in that country will employ his money in any branch of trade by which he cannot gain conſiderably more per centum than is expected in Great Britain, where the intereſt is low, and profit moderate; a circumſtance which will always give a great advantage to the Britiſh miner, who likewiſe enjoys an exemption from freight and inſurance, which lie heavy upon the American adventurer, eſpecially in time of war. With reſpect to the apprehenſion of the leather tanners, they obſerved, that as the coppices generally grew on barren lands, not fit for tillage, and improved the paſturage, no proprietor would be at the expence of

of grubbing up the wood to ſpoil the paſture, as he could make no other uſe of the land on which it was produced. The wood muſt be always worth ſomething, eſpecially in counties where there is not plenty of coal, and the timber trees would produce conſiderable advantage: therefore, if there was not one iron mine in Great Britain, no coppices would be grubbed up, unleſs it grew on a rich ſoil which would produce corn inſtead of cord-wood; conſequently the tanners have nothing to fear, eſpecially as planting hath become a prevailing taſte among the landholders of the iſland. The committee appointed to prepare the bill, ſeriouſly weighed and canvaſſed theſe arguments, examined diſputed facts, and inſpected papers and accounts relating to the produce, importation, and manufactory of iron. At length Mr. John Pitt reported to the houſe their opinion, implying that the liberty granted by an act paſſed in the twenty-third year of his majeſty's reign, of importing bar-iron from the Britiſh colonies in America into the port of London, ſhould be extended to all the other ports of Great Britain; and that ſo much of that act as related to this clauſe, ſhould be repealed. The houſe having agreed to theſe reſolutions, and the bill being brought in accordingly, another petition was preſented by ſeveral noblemen, gentlemen, freeholders, and other proprietors, owners, and poſſeſſors of coppices and woodlands in the weſt-riding of Yorkſhire, alledging that a permiſſion to import American bar-iron duty free, would be attended with numberleſs ill conſequences both of a public and private nature; ſpecifying certain hardſhips to which they in particular would An. 1757.

An. 1757. be expoſed; and praying, that if the bill ſhould paſs, they might be relieved from the preſſure of an act paſſed in the reign of Henry VIII. obliging the owners of coppice-woods to preſerve them, under ſevere penalties; and be permitted to ſell and grub up their coppice-woods, in order to a more proper cultivation of the ſoil, without being reſtrained by the fear of malicious and intereſted proſecutions. In conſequence of this remonſtrance, a clauſe was added to the bill, repealing ſo much of the act of Henry the Eighth as prohibited the converſion of coppice or underwoods into paſture or tillage; then it paſſed through both houſes, and received the royal ſanction. As there was not time, after this affair came upon the carpet, to obtain any new account from America, and as it was thought neceſſary to know the quantities of iron made in that country, the houſe preſented an addreſs to his majeſty, deſiring he would be pleaſed to give directions, that there ſhould be laid before them, in the next ſeſſion of parliament, an account of the quantity of iron made in the American colonies, from Chriſtmas in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-nine, to the fifth day of January, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſix, each year being diſtinguiſhed.

From this important object, the parliament converted its attention to a regulation of a much more private nature. In conſequence of a petition by the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, a bill was brought in, and paſſed into a law without oppoſition, for the more effectual preſervation and improvement of the fry and ſpawn

ſpawn of fiſh in the river Thames, and waters of Medway, and for the better regulating the fiſhery in theſe rivers. The two next meaſures taken for the benefit of the public were, firſt, a bill to render more effectual the ſeveral laws then in being, for the amendment and preſervation of the highways and turnpike roads of the kingdom; the other for the more effectually preventing the ſpreading of the contagious diſtemper which at that time raged among the horned cattle. A third aroſe from the diſtreſs of poor ſilk manufacturers, who were deſtitute of employment, and deprived of all means of ſubſiſting through the interruption of the Levant trade, occaſioned by the war, and the delay of the merchant ſhips from Italy. In order to remedy this inconvenience, a bill was prepared, enacting that any perſons might import from any place, in any ſhip or veſſel whatſoever, till the firſt day of December, one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſeven, organzine thrown ſilk of the growth or production of Italy, to be brought to the cuſtom-houſe of London, whereſoever landed: but that no Italian thrown ſilk, coarſer than Bologna, nor any tram of the growth of Italy; nor any other thrown ſilk of the growth or production of Turkey, Perſia, Eaſt-India, or China, ſhould be imported by this act, under the penalty of the forfeiture thereof. Notwithſtanding ſeveral petitions preſented by the merchants, owners and commanders of ſhips, and others trading to Leghorn, and other ports of Italy; as well as by the importers and manufacturers of raw ſilks, repreſenting evil conſequences that would probably attend the paſſing of ſuch a bill, the parliament agreed to this tempo-

An. 1757.

Regulations with reſpect to the importation of ſilk.

An. 1757. rary deviation from the famous act of navigation, for a preſent ſupply to the poor manufacturers; and perhaps it would be for the intereſt of the community, at the beginning of every war, to ſuſpend this act with reſpect to foreign ſhips and foreign ſeamen, ſo far as it relates to the importation of thoſe rough materials that are neceſſary for the Britiſh manufactures.

Encouragement to ſmugglers to enliſt in his majeſty's ſervice.

The next civil regulation eſtabliſhed in this ſeſſion of parliament, was in itſelf judicious, and, had it been more early ſuggeſted, might have been much more beneficial to the public. In order to diſcourage the practice of ſmuggling, and prevent the deſperadoes therein concerned from enliſting in the ſervice of the enemy, a law was paſſed, enacting, that every perſon who had been, before the firſt of May in the preſent year, guilty of illegal running, concealing, receiving, or carrying any wool, or prohibited goods, or any foreign commodities liable to duties, the ſame not having been payed or ſecured; or of aiding therein, or had been found with fire-arms or weapons, in order to be aiding to ſuch offenders; or had been guilty of receiving ſuch goods after ſeizure; or of any act whatſoever, whereby perſons might be deemed runners of foreign goods; or of hindering, wounding, or beating any officer in the execution of his duty, or aſſiſting therein, ſhould be indemnified from all ſuch offences, concerning which, no ſuit ſhould then have been commenced, or compoſition made, on condition that he ſhould, before being apprehended, or proſecuted, and before the firſt day of December, enter himſelf with ſome commiſſioned officer of his majeſty's fleet, to ſerve as a com-

common ſailor; and ſhould, for three years from ſuch entry, unleſs ſooner duly diſchaged, actually ſerve and do duty in that ſtation, and regiſter his name, &c. with the clerk of the peace of the country where he reſided, as the act preſcribes. An. 1757.

An attempt was made in favour of the ſeamen employed in the navy, who had been very irregularly payed, and ſubject to grievous hardſhips in conſequence of this irregularity. Mr. Greenville, brother to earl Temple, moved for leave to bring in a bill for the encouragement of ſeamen employed in his majeſty's navy, and for eſtabliſhing a regular method for the punctual, ſpeedy, and certain payment of their wages, as well as for reſcuing them from the arts of fraud and impoſition. The propoſal was corroborated by divers petitions: the bill was prepared, read, printed, and, after it had undergone ſome amendment, paſſed into the houſe of lords, where it was encountered with ſeveral objections, and dropped for this ſeſſion of parliament. The other deſigns which miſcarried in the ſame manner were theſe: a bill for enlarging the terms and powers granted and continued by ſeveral acts of parliament, for repairing the harbour of Dover in Kent, and for reſtoring the harbour of Rye in Suſſex to its antient goodneſs. A bill to continue an act, made in the ſixth year of his preſent majeſty's reign, for the better regulating of laſtage and ballaſtage in the river Thames. A bill to reſtrain and limit the vending and diſpoſſing of poiſons; and a bill regulating the manner of licenſing alehouſes in cities and towns corporate within the kingdom of England. Attempts in parliament that miſcarried.

An. 1757. The houſe of commons being deſirous of preventing, for the future ſuch diſtreſſes as the poor had lately undergone, appointed a committee to conſider of proper proviſions to reſtrain the price of corn and bread within due bounds for the future. For this purpoſe they were impowered to ſend for perſons, papers, and records; and it was reſolved that all who attended the committee ſhould have voices. Having inquired into the cauſes of the late ſcarcity, they agreed to ſeveral reſolutions, and a bill was brought in to explain and amend the laws againſt regrators, foreſtallers, and engroſſers of corn. The committee alſo received inſtructions to inquire into the abuſes of millers, mealmen, and bakers, with regard to bread, and to conſider of proper methods to prevent them in the ſequel; but no further progreſs was made in this important affair, which was the more intereſting, as the lives of individuals, in a great meaſure, depended upon a ſpeedy reformation: for the millers and bakers were ſaid to have adulterated their flour with common whiting, lime, bone-aſhes, allum, and other ingredients pernicious to the human conſtitution; a conſummation of villainy for which no adequate puniſhment could be inflicted. Among the meaſures propoſed in parliament which did not ſucceed, one of the moſt remarkable was a bill prepared by Mr. Roſe Fuller, Mr. Charles Townſhend, and Mr. Banks, to explain, amend, and render more effectual a law paſſed in the reign of king William the Third, intituled, "An act to puniſh governors of plantations, in this kingdom, for crimes committed by them in the plantations." This bill was propoſed

Inquiry into the cauſes of the ſcarcity of corn,

in

in conſequence of ſome complaints ſpecifying acts of cruelty, folly, and oppreſſion, by which ſome Britiſh governors had been lately diſtinguiſhed; but before the bill could be brought in, the parliament was prorogued. An. 1757

Inquiry into the loſs of Minorca.

But no ſtep taken by the houſe of commons, in the courſe of this ſeſſion, was more intereſting to the body of the people, than the inquiry into the loſs of Minorca, which had excited ſuch loud and univerſal clamour. By addreſſes to the king, unanimouſly voted, the commons requeſted that his majeſty would give directions for laying before them copies of all the letters and papers, containing any intelligence received by the ſecretaries of ſtate, the commiſſioners of the admiralty, or any others of his majeſty's miniſters, in relation to the equipment of the French fleet at Toulon, or the deſigns of the French on Minorca, or any other of his majeſty's poſſeſſions in Europe, ſince the firſt day of January, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-five, to the firſt day of laſt Auguſt. They likewiſe deſired to peruſe a liſt of the ſhips of war that were equipped and made ready for ſea, from the firſt of Auguſt, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-five, to the thirtieth day of April in the following year; with the copies of all ſailing orders ſent to the commanders during that period: as alſo the ſtate and condition of his majeſty's ſhips in the ſeveral ports of Great Britain, at the time of admiral Byng's departure, with the ſquadron under his command, for the relief of Fort St. Philip, during this period of time above-mentioned, according to the monthly returns made to the admiralty, with the number of

ſea-

An. 1757. ſeamen muſtered and borne on board the reſpective ſhips. They demanded copies of all orders and inſtructions given to that admiral, and of letters written to and received from him, during his continuance in that command, either by the ſecretaries of ſtate, or lords of the admiralty, relating to the condition of his ſquadron, and to the execution of his orders. In a word, they required the inſpection of all papers which could, in any manner, tend to explain the loſs of Minorca, and the miſcarriage of Mr. Byng's ſquadron. His majeſty complied with every article of their requeſts: the papers were preſented to the houſe, ordered to lie upon the table for the peruſal of the members, and finally referred to the conſideration of a committee of the whole houſe.

Reflections on this method of proceeding.

In the courſe of their deliberations they addreſſed his majeſty for more information, till at length the truth ſeemed to be ſmothered under ſuch an enormous burthen of papers, as the efforts of a whole ſeſſion could not have properly removed. Indeed many diſcerning perſons, without doors, began to deſpair of ſeeing the myſtery unfolded, as ſoon as the inquiry was undertaken by a committee of the whole houſe. They obſerved that an affair of ſuch a dark, intricate, and ſuſpicious nature, ought to have been referred to a ſelect and ſecret committee, choſen by ballot, impowered to ſend for perſons, papers, and records; and to examine witneſſes in the moſt ſolemn and deliberate manner: that the names of the committee ought to have been publiſhed for the ſatisfaction of the people, who could have judged with ſome certainty whether the inquiry would be carried on with

with ſuch impartiality as the national misfortune required. They ſuſpected that this reference to a committee of the whole houſe, was a m—l contrivance to prevent a regular and minute inveſtigation; to introduce confuſion and conteſt; to puzzle, perplex, and obumbrate; to teaze, fatigue, and diſguſt the inquirers, that the examination might be hurried over in a ſuperficial and perfunctory manner; and the m---y, from this anarchy and confuſion of materials, half explored and undigeſted, derive a general parliamentary approbation, to which they might appeal from the accuſations of the people. A ſelect committee would have probably examined ſome of the clerks of the reſpective offices, that they might certainly know whether any letters or papers had been ſuppreſſed; whether the extracts had been faithfully made; and whether there might not be papers of intelligence, which, tho' proper to be ſubmitted to a ſelect and ſecret committee, could not conſiſtently with the honour of the nation, be communicated to a committee of the whole houſe. Indeed it does not appear that the m---rs had any foreign intelligence or correſpondents that could be much depended upon, in any matter of national importance; and no evidence was examined on this occaſion: a circumſtance the leſs to be regretted, as in times paſt evil miniſters have generally found means to render ſuch inquiries ineffectual; and the ſame arts would, at any rate, have operated with the ſame efficacy, had a ſecret committee been employed at this juncture. An. 1757.

Be that as it may, ſeveral reſolutions were reported from the committee, though ſome of them were

An. 1757. were not carried by the majority without violent diſpute and ſevere altercation. The firſt and laſt of their reſolutions require particular notice.

Reſolutions of the committee; and remarks on theſe reſolutions.

By the former it appeared to the committee, that his majeſty, from the twenty-ſeventh day of Auguſt, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-five, to the twentieth day of April in the ſucceeding year, received ſuch repeated and concurrent intelligence, as gave juſt reaſon to believe that the French king intended to invade his dominions of Great Britain or Ireland.

In the latter they declared their opinion, that no greater number of ſhips of war could be ſent into the Mediterranean, than were actually ſent thither under the command of admiral Byng; nor any greater reinforcement than the regiment which was ſent, and the detachment, equal to a battalion, which was ordered to the relief of Fort St. Philip, conſiſtently with the ſtate of the navy, and the various ſervices eſſential to the ſafety of his majeſty's dominions, and the intereſts of his ſubjects.

It muſt have been ſomething more powerful than ordinary conviction that ſuggeſted theſe opinions. Whatever reports might have been circulated by the French miniſtry, in order to amuſe, intimidate, and detach the attention of the Engliſh government from America and the Mediterranean, where they really intended to exert themſelves; yet the circumſtances of the two nations being conſidered, one would think there could have been no juſt grounds to fear an invaſion of Great Britain or Ireland, eſpecially when other intelligence ſeemed to point out much more probable ſcenes of action. But the laſt reſolution is ſtill more incomprehenſible

ſible to thoſe who know not exactly the baſis on which it was raiſed. The number of ſhips of war in actual commiſſion, amounted to two hundred and fifty, having on board fifty thouſand ſeamen and marines. Intelligence and repeated information of the French deſign upon Minorca had been conveyed to the m - y of England, about ſix months before it was put in execution. Is it credible, that in all this time the nation could not equip or ſpare above eleven ſhips of the line and ſix frigates, to ſave the important iſland of Minorca? Is it eaſy to conceive, that from a ſtanding army of fifty thouſand men, one regiment of troops could not have been detached to reinforce a garriſon, well known to be inſufficient for the works it was deſtined to defend? To perſons of common intellects it appeared, that intelligence of the armament at Toulon was conveyed to the admiralty as early as the month of September, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-five, with expreſs notice that it would conſiſt of twelve ſhips of the line; that the deſign againſt Minorca was communicated as early as the twenty-ſeventh day of Auguſt, by conſul Banks of Carthagena; confirmed by letters from conſul Berttes at Genoa, dated on the ſeventeenth and twenty-ſixth of January, and received by Mr. Fox, ſecretary of ſtate, on the fourth and eleventh of February; as well as by many ſubſequent intimations; that, notwithſtanding theſe repeated advices, even after hoſtilities had commenced in Europe, when the garriſon of Minorca amounted to no more than four incomplete regiments, and one company of artillery, forty-two officers being abſent, and the place otherwiſe un- An. 1757.

An. 1757. unprovided for a ſiege; when the Mediterranean ſquadron, commanded by Mr. Edgecumbe, conſiſted of two ſhips of the line, and five frigates; neither ſtores, ammunition, or proviſion, the abſent officers belonging to the garriſon, recruits for the regiments, through ready raiſed, miners, nor any additional troops, were ſent to the iſland; nor the ſquadron augmented, till admiral Byng ſailed from Spithead on the ſixth day of April, with no more ſhips of the line than, by the moſt early and authentic intelligence, the government were informed would ſail from Toulon, even when Mr. Byng ſhould have been joined by commodore Edgecumbe; a junction upon which no dependance ought to have been laid: that this ſquadron contained no troops but ſuch as belonged to the four regiments in garriſon, except one battalion to ſerve in the fleet as marines, unleſs we include the order for another to be embarked at Gibraltar, which order was neither obeyed nor underſtood: that conſidering the danger to which Minorca was expoſed, and the forwardneſs of the enemy's preparations at Toulon, admiral Oſborne, with thirteen ſhips of the line and one frigate, who returned on the ſixteenth of February, after having convoyed a fleet of merchant-ſhips, might have been detached to Minorca, without hazarding the coaſt of Great Britain; for at that time, excluſive of this ſquadron, there were eight ſhips of the line and thirty-two frigates ready manned, and thirty-two ſhips of the line and five frigates almoſt equipped: that admiral Hawke was ſent with fourteen ſhips of the line and one frigate to cruize in the bay of Biſcay, after repeated intelligence had been received that the

the French fleet had ſailed for the Weſt Indies, and the eleven ſhips remaining at Breſt and Rochfort were in want of hands and cannon, ſo that they could never ſerve to cover any embarkation or deſcent; conſequently Mr. Hawke's ſquadron might have been ſpared for the relief of Minorca: that inſtead of attending to this important object, the admiralty, on the eighth day of March, ſent two ſhips of the line and three frigates to intercept a coaſting convoy off Cape Barfleur: on the eleventh of the ſame month they detached two ſhips of the line to the Weſt Indies; and on the nineteenth two more to North America, where they could be of little immediate ſervice: on the twenty-third two of the line and three frigates a convoy-hunting off Cherburg; and on the firſt of April five ſhips of the line, including three returned from this laſt ſervice, to reinforce Sir Edward Hawke, already too ſtrong for the French fleet bound to Canada: that all theſe ſhips might have been added to Mr. Byng's ſquadron, without expoſing Great Britain or Ireland to any hazard of invaſion: that at length Mr. Byng was detached with ten great ſhips only, and even denied a frigate to repeat ſignals, for which he petitioned; although at that very time there were in port, excluſive of his ſquadron, ſeventeen ſhips of the line and thirteen frigates ready for ſea, beſides eleven of the line and nineteen frigates almoſt equipped. From theſe and other circumſtances, particulariſed and urged with great vivacity, many individuals inferred, that a greater number of ſhips might have been detached to the Mediterranean than were actually ſent with admiral Byng: that the not ſending an earlier and ſtronger An. 1757.

An. 1757. force was one great cauſe of Minorca's being loſt, and co-operated with the delay of the m——y, in ſending thither reinforcements of troops, their neglect in ſuffering the officers of the garriſon to continue abſent from their duty, and their omitting to give orders for raiſing miners to ſerve in the fortreſs of Mahon.

Examination of the American contract.

The next inquiry in which the houſe of commons engaged, related to the contracts for victualling the forces in America, which were ſuppoſed by ſome patriots to be fraudulent and unconſcionable. This ſuſpicion aroſe from an ambiguous expreſſion, on which the contractor being interrogated by the committee, appointed to examine the particulars, he prudently interpreted it in ſuch a manner as to ſcreen himſelf from the reſentment of the legiſlature. The houſe therefore reſolved, that the contract entered into on the twenty-ſixth day of March, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-ſix, by the commiſſioners of the treaſury, with William Baker, Chriſtopher Kilby, and Richard Baker, of London, merchants, for furniſhing proviſions to the forces under the command of the earl of Loudon, was prudent and neceſſary, and properly adapted to the ſecuring a conſtant and effectual ſupply for thoſe forces in America.

Inquiry into the conduct of admiral Knowles, governor of Jamaica.

In the preceding ſeſſion an addreſs had been preſented to the king by the houſe of commons, deſiring his majeſty would give orders for laying before them ſeveral papers relating to diſputes which had lately happened between his excellency Charles Knowles, Eſq; and ſome of the principal inhabitants of the iſland of Jamaica. This governor was accuſed of many illegal, cruel, and arbi-

trary acts, during the courſe of his arbitration: An. 1757.
but theſe imputations he incurred by an exertion of power, which was in itſelf laudable, and well intended for the commercial intereſt of the iſland. This was his changing the ſeat of government, and procuring an act of aſſembly for removing the ſeveral laws, records, books, papers, and writings belonging to ſeveral offices in that iſland, from Spaniſh-town to Kingſton; and for obliging the ſeveral officers to keep their offices, and hold a ſupreme court of judicature, at this laſt place, to which he had moved the ſeat of government.

Spaniſh-town, otherwiſe called St. Jago de la Vega, the old capital, was an inconſiderable inland place of no ſecurity, trade, or importance; whereas Kingſton was the center of commerce, ſituated on the ſide of a fine harbour filled with ſhips, well ſecured from the inſults of an enemy, large, wealthy, and flouriſhing. Here the merchants dwell, and ſhip the greateſt part of the ſugars that grow upon the iſland. They found it extremely inconvenient and expenſive to take out their clearances at Spaniſh-town, which ſtands at a conſiderable diſtance; and the ſame inconvenience and expence being felt by the reſt of the inhabitants, who had occaſion to proſecute ſuits at law, or attend the aſſembly of the iſland, they joined in repreſentations to the governor, requeſting, that, in conſideration of theſe inconveniences, added to that of the weakneſs of Spaniſh town and the importance of Kingſton, the ſeat of government might be removed. He complied with their requeſt, and in ſo doing intailed upon himſelf the hatred and reſentment of certain powerful planters, who poſſeſſed eſtates in

An. 1757. and about the old town of St. Jago de la Vega, thus deſerted. This ſeems to have been the real ſource of the animoſity and clamour incurred by Mr. Knowles, againſt whom a petition, ſigned by nineteen members of the aſſembly, had been ſent to England, and preſented to his majeſty.

In the two ſeſſions preceding this year, the affair had been brought into the houſe of commons, where this governor's character was painted in frightful colours, and divers papers relating to the diſpute were examined. Mr. Knowles having by this time returned to England, the ſubject of his adminiſtration was revived, and referred to a committee of the whole houſe.

In the mean time petitions were preſented by ſeveral merchants of London and Liverpool, concerned in the trade to Jamaica, alledging, that the removal of the public courts, offices, and records of the iſland of Jamaica to Kingſton, and fixing the ſeat of government there, had been productive of many important advantages, by rendering the ſtrength of the iſland more formidable, the property of the traders and inhabitants more ſecure, and the proſecution of all commercial buſineſs more expeditious and leſs expenſive than formerly; therefore praying, that the purpoſes of the act, paſſed in Jamaica for that end might be carried into effectual execution, in ſuch manner as the houſe ſhould think proper.

Reſolutions of the commons on this ſubject.

The committee, having examined a great number of papers, agreed to ſome reſolutions, importing, that a certain reſolution of the aſſembly of Jamaica, dated on the twenty-ninth day of October, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-three,

three, implying a claim of right in that aſſembly to raiſe and apply public money without the conſent of the governor and council; was illegal, repugnant to the terms of his majeſty's commiſſion to his governor of the ſaid iſland, and derogatory of the rights of the crown and people of Great Britain: that the ſix laſt reſolutions taken in the aſſembly of Jamaica, on the twenty-ninth day of October, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty-three, proceeded on a manifeſt miſapprehenſion of the king's inſtructions to his governor, requiring him not to give his aſſent to any bill of an unuſual or extraordinary nature and importance, wherein his majeſty's prerogative, or the property of his ſubjects, might be prejudiced, or the trade or ſhipping of the kingdom any ways affected, unleſs there ſhould be a clauſe inſerted, ſuſpending the execution of ſuch bill until his majeſty's pleaſure ſhould be known; that ſuch inſtruction was juſt and neceſſary, and no alteration of the conſtitution of the iſland, nor any way derogatory to the rights of the ſubjects in Jamaica. From theſe reſolutions the reader may perceive the nature of the diſpute, which had ariſen between the people of Jamaica and their governor, vice admiral Knowles, whoſe conduct on this occaſion ſeems to have been juſtified by the legiſlature. The parliament, however, forbore to determine the queſtion, whether the removal of the courts of judicature from Spaniſh-town to Kingſton was a meaſure calculated for the intereſt of the iſland in general. An. 1757.

The laſt ſubject which we ſhall mention, as having fallen under the cognizance of the commons during the ſeſſion of parliament, was the ſtate of

An. 1757. Reſolutions concerning Milford-haven.

Milford-haven on the coaſt of Wales, one of the moſt capacious, ſafe, and commodious harbours in Great Britain. Here the country affords many conveniencies for building ſhips of war, and erecting forts, docks, quays, and magazines. It might be fortified at a very ſmall expence, ſo as to be quite ſecure from any attempts of the enemy, and rendered by far the moſt uſeful harbour in the kingdom for fleets, cruiſers, trading ſhips, and packet-boats, bound to and from the weſtward; for from hence they may put to ſea almoſt with any wind, and even at low water: they may weather Scilly and Cape Clear when no veſſel can ſtir from the Britiſh channel, or out of the French ports of Breſt and Rochfort; and as a poſt can travel from hence in three days to London, it might become the center of very uſeful ſea intelligence. A petition from ſeveral merchants in London, was preſented, and recommended to the houſe in a meſſage from the king, ſpecifying the advantages of this harbour, and the ſmall expence at which it might be fortified; and praying that the houſe would take this important ſubject into conſideration. Accordingly a committee was appointed for this purpoſe, with power to ſend for perſons, papers, and records; and every circumſtance relating to it was examined with accuracy and deliberation. At length, the report being made to the houſe by Mr. Charles Townſhend, they unanimouſly agreed to an addreſs, repreſenting to his majeſty, that many great loſſes had been ſuſtained by the trade of the kingdom, in time of war, from the want of a ſafe harbour on the weſtern coaſt of the iſland, for the reception and protection of merchant ſhips,

and ſending out cruiſers: that the harbour of Mil- An. 1757.
ford haven, in the county of Pembroke, is moſt advantageouſly ſituated, and, if properly defended and ſecured, in every reſpect adapted to the anſwering thoſe important purpoſes: they therefore humbly beſought his majeſty, that he would give immediate directions for erecting batteries, with proper cover, on the ſides of the ſaid harbour, in the moſt convenient places for guarding the entrance, called Hubberſtone-road; and alſo ſuch other fortifications as might be neceſſary to ſecure the interior parts of the harbour; and that, until ſuch batteries and fortifications could be completed, ſome temporary defence might be provided for the immediate protection of the ſhips and veſſels lying in the ſaid harbour: finally, they aſſured him the houſe would make good to his majeſty all ſuch expences as ſhould be incurred for theſe purpoſes. The addreſs met with a gracious reception, and a promiſe that ſuch directions ſhould be given. The harbour was actually ſurveyed, the places were pitched upon for batteries, and the eſtimates prepared; but we do not find that any further progreſs hath been made in the execution of this truly national deſign, which, in all probability, will be neglected until it ſhall be revived by ſome future diſaſter.

We have now finiſhed the detail of all the material tranſactions of this ſeſſion, except what relates to the fate of admiral Byng, which now claims our attention. In the mean time we may obſerve, that on the fourth day of July the ſeſſion was cloſed with his majeſty's harangue; the moſt remarkable and pleaſing paragraph of which turned upon his royal aſſurance, that the ſuccour and preſervation of his dominions in America had been his conſtant care, Cloſe of the ſeſſion.

An. 1757. and, next to the ſecurity of his kingdoms, ſhould continue to be his great and principal object. He told them he had taken ſuch meaſures as, he truſted, by the bleſſing of God, might effectually diſappoint the deſigns of the enemy in thoſe parts; that he had no further view but to vindicate the juſt rights of his crown and ſubjects from the moſt injurious encroachments; to preſerve tranquility, as far as the circumſtances of things might admit; to prevent the true friends of Britain, and the liberties of Europe, from being oppreſſed and endangered by any unprovoked and unnatural conjunction.

Trial of admiral Byng.

Of all the tranſactions that diſtinguiſhed this year, the moſt extraordinary was the ſentence executed on admiral Byng, the ſon of that great officer who had acquired ſuch honour by his naval exploits in the preceding reign, and was ennobled for his ſervices by the title of lord viſcount Torrington. His ſecond ſon, John Byng, had, from his earlieſt youth, been trained to his father's profeſſion; and was generally eſteemed one of the beſt officers in the navy, when he embarked in that expedition to Minorca which covered his character with diſgrace, and even expoſed him to all the horrors of an ignominious death. On the twenty-eighth day of December his trial began before a court-martial, held on board of the ſhip St. George in the harbour of Portſmouth, to which place Mr. Byng had been conveyed from Greenwich by a party of horſe-guards, and inſulted by the populace in every town and village through which he paſſed. The court having proceeded to examine the evidences for the crown and the priſoner, from day to day, in the courſe of a long ſitting, agreed unanimouſly to thirty ſeven reſolutions, implying their opinion, that

admiral Byng, during the engagement between the British and French fleets on the twentieth day of May last, did not do his utmost endeavour to take, seize, and destroy the ships of the French king, which it was his duty to have engaged; and to assist such of his majesty's ships as were engaged, which it was his duty to have assisted; and that he did not exert his utmost power for the relief of St. Philip's castle. They therefore unanimously agreed, that he fell under part of the twelfth article of an act of parliament, passed in the twenty-second year of the present reign, for amending, explaining, and reducing into one act of parliament the laws relating to the government of his majesty's ships, vessels, and forces by sea; and as that article positively prescribed death, without any alternative left to the discretion of the court, under any variation of circumstances, they unanimously adjudged the said admiral John Byng to be shot to death, at such time and on board of such ships as the lords commissioners of the admiralty should please to direct. But as it appeared, by the evidence of the officers that were near the admiral's person, that no backwardness was perceiveable in him during the action, nor any mark of fear or confusion either in his countenance or behaviour; but that he delivered his orders coolly and distinctly, without seeming deficient in personal courage, and from other circumstances, they believed his misconduct did not arise either from cowardice or disaffection, they unanimously and earnestly recommended him as a proper object of mercy. The admiral himself behaved, through the whole trial, with the most chearful composure, seemingly the effect of conscious innocence, upon which perhaps he too much relied. Even An. 1757.

An. 1757. after he had heard the evidence examined againſt him, and finiſhed his own defence, he laid his account in being honourably acquitted, and ordered his coach to be ready for conveying him directly from the tribunal to London. A gentleman, his friend, by whom he was attended, having received intimation of the ſentence to be pronounced, thought it his duty to prepare him for the occaſion, that he might ſummon all his fortitude to his aſſiſtance; and accordingly made him acquainted with the information he had received. The admiral gave tokens of ſurprize and reſentment; but betrayed no marks of fear or diſorder, either then or in the court when the ſentence was pronounced. On the contrary, while divers members of the court-martial manifeſted grief, anxiety, and trepidation, ſhedding tears, and ſighing with extraordinary emotion, he heard his doom denounced without undergoing the leaſt alteration of feature, and made a low obeiſance to the preſident and the other members of the court as he retired.

He is recommended to mercy.

The officers that compoſed this tribunal were ſo ſenſible of the law's ſeverity, that they unanimouſly ſubſcribed a letter to the board of admiralty, containing this remarkable paragraph: "We cannot help laying the diſtreſſes of our minds before your lordſhips on this occaſion, in finding ourſelves under a neceſſity of condemning a man to death, from the great ſeverity of the twelfth article of war, part of which he falls under, which admits of no mitigation, if the crime ſhould be committed by an error in judgment; and therefore, for our own conſciences ſake, as well as in juſtice to the priſoner, we pray your lordſhips, in the moſt earneſt manner, to recommend him to his majeſty's clemency." The lords

lords of the admiralty, inſtead of complying with the requeſt of the court martial, tranſmitted their letter to the king, with copies of their proceedings, and a letter from themſelves to his majeſty, ſpecifying a doubt with regard to the legality of the ſentence, as the crime of Negligence, for which the admiral had been condemned, was not expreſſed in any part of the proceedings. At the ſame time copies of two petitions from George lord viſcount Torrington, in behalf of his kinſman admiral Byng, were ſubmitted to his majeſty's royal wiſdom and determination. All the friends and relations of the unhappy convict employed and exerted their influence and intereſt for his pardon; and as the circumſtances had appeared ſo ſtrong in his favour, it was ſuppoſed that the ſceptre of royal mercy would be extended for his preſervation: but infamous arts were uſed to whet the ſavage appetite of the populace for blood. The cry of vengeance was loud throughout the land: ſullen clouds of ſuſpicion and malevolence interpoſing, were ſaid to obſtruct the genial beams of the beſt virtue that adorns the throne; and the ſ------n was given to underſtand, that the execution of admiral Byng was a victim abſolutely neceſſary to appeaſe the fury of the people. His majeſty, in conſequence of the repreſentation made by the lords of the admiralty, referred the ſentence to the conſideration of the twelve judges, who were unanimouſly of opinion that the ſentence was legal. This report being tranſmitted from the privy-council to the admiralty, their lordſhips iſſued a warrant for executing the ſentence of death on the twenty-eighth day of February. One gentleman at the board, however, refuſed to ſubſcribe the warrant, aſſigning, for his refuſal, the reaſons which

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we

An. 1757. we have inſerted by way of note, for the ſatisfaction of the reader *.

Though

* A----l F----s's reaſons for not ſigning the warrant for admiral Byng's execution.

" It may be thought great preſumption in me to differ from ſo great authority as that of the twelve judges; but when a man is called upon to ſign his name to an act, which is to give authority to the ſhedding of blood, he ought to be guided by his own conſcience, and not by the opinions of other men.

In the caſe before us, it is not the merit of admiral Byng that I conſider: whether he deſerves death, or not, is not a queſtion for me to decide; but whether or not his life can be taken away by the ſentence pronounced on him by the court-martial; and after having ſo clearly explained their motives for pronouncing ſuch a ſentence, is the point which alone has employed my moſt ſerious conſideration.

The twelfth article of war, on which admiral Byng's ſentence is grounded, ſays, (according to my underſtanding of its meaning) " That every perſon who, in time of action, ſhall withdraw, keep back, or not come into fight, or who ſhall not do his utmoſt, &c. through motives of cowardice, negligence, or diſaffection, ſhall ſuffer death." The court-martial does, in expreſs words, acquit admiral Byng of cowardice and diſaffection, and does not name the word Negligence. Admiral Byng does not, as I conceive, fall under the letter or deſcription of the twelfth article of war. It may be ſaid, that negligence is implied, though the word is not mentioned; otherwiſe the court-martial would not have brought his offence under the twelfth article, having acquitted him of cowardice and diſaffection. But it muſt be acknowledged, that the negligence implied cannot be wilful negligence: for wilful negligence, in admiral Byng's ſituation, muſt have proceeded from either cowardice or diſaffection, and he is expreſly acquitted of both theſe crimes: beſides, theſe crimes, which are implied only, and not named, may indeed juſtify ſuſpicion, and private opinion; but cannot ſatisfy the conſcience in a caſe of blood.

Admiral Byng's fate was referred to a court martial; his life and death were left to their opinions. The court-martial condemn him to death, becauſe, as they expreſly ſay, they were under a neceſſity of doing ſo by reaſon of the letter of the law, the ſeverity of which they complained of, becauſe it admits of no mitigation. The court-martial expreſly ſay, that for the ſake of their conſciences, as well as in juſtice to the priſoner, they moſt earneſtly recommend him to his majeſty for mercy; it is evident then, that in the opinions and conſciences of the judges, he was not deſerving of death.

The queſtion then is, ſhall the opinions, or neceſſities, of the court-martial determine admiral Byng's fate? if it ſhould be the latter, he will be executed contrary to the intentions and meaning of his judges; if the former, his life is not forfeited. His judges declare him not deſerving of death; but, miſtaking either the meaning of the law, or the nature of his offence, they bring him under an article of war, which, according to their own deſcription of his offence, he does not, I conceive, fall under; and then they condemn him to death, becauſe, as they ſay, the law admits of no mitigation. Can a man's life be taken away by ſuch a ſentence? I would not willingly be miſunderſtood, and have it believed that I judge of admiral Byng's deſerts: that was the

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The king's meſſage to parliament with reſpect to the ſentence.

Though mercy was denied to the criminal, the crown ſeemed determined to do nothing that ſhould be thought inconſiſtent with law. A member of parliament, who had ſat upon the court-martial at Portſmouth, roſe up in his place, and made application to the houſe of commons, in behalf of himſelf, and ſeveral other members of that tribunal, praying the aid of the legiſlature to be releaſed from the oath of ſecrecy impoſed on courts-martial, that they might diſcloſe the grounds on which ſentence of death had paſſed on admiral Byng, and, perhaps, diſcover ſuch circumſtances as might ſhew the ſentence to be improper. Although this application produced no reſolution in the houſe, the king, on the twenty-ſixth day of February, ſent a meſſage to the commons by Mr. ſecretary Pitt, importing, that though he had determined to let the law take its courſe, with relation to admiral Byng, and reſiſted all ſollicitations to the contrary, yet, as a member of the houſe had expreſſed ſome ſcruples about the ſentence, his majeſty had thought fit to reſpite the execution of it, that there might be an opportunity of knowing, by the ſeparate examination of the members of the court-martial, upon oath, what grounds there were for ſuch ſcruples; and that his majeſty was reſolved ſtill to let the ſentence be carried into execution, unleſs it ſhould

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buſineſs of a court-martial, and it is my duty only to act according to my conſcience; which, after deliberate conſideration, aſſiſted by the beſt light a poor underſtanding can afford, it remains ſtill in doubt, and therefore I cannot conſent to ſign a warrant whereby the ſentence of the court-martial may be carried into execution; for I cannot help thinking, that however criminal admiral Byng may be, his life is not forfeited by that ſentence. I don't mean to find fault with other men's opinions: all I endeavour at, is to give reaſons for my own; and all I deſire, or wiſh, is, that I may not be miſunderſtood; I do not pretend to judge admiral Byng's deſerts, nor to give any opinion on the propriety of the act.

Signed 16 Feb. 1757, at the Admiralty, J. F-----."

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An. 1757. appear from the ſaid examination, that admiral Byng was unjuſtly condemned. The ſentence might be ſtrictly legal, and, at the ſame time, very ſevere, according to the maxim, ſummum jus ſumma injuria. In ſuch caſes, and perhaps in ſuch caſes only, the rigour of the law ought to be ſoftened by the lenient hand of the royal prerogative. That this was the caſe of admiral Byng, appears from the warm and eager interceſſion of his jury; a ſpecies of interceſſion which hath generally, if not always, prevailed at the foot of the throne, when any thing favourable for the criminal had appeared in the courſe of the trial. How much more then might it have been expected to ſucceed, when earneſtly urged as a caſe of conſcience, in behalf of a man whom his judges had expreſly acquitted of cowardice and treachery, the only two imputations that rendered him criminal in the eyes of the nation! Such an interpoſition of the crown in parliamentary tranſactions was irregular, unneceſſary, and, at another juncture, might have been productive of violent heats and declamation. At preſent, however, it paſſed without cenſure, as the effect of inattention, rather than a deſign to encroach upon the privileges of the houſe.

Bill to releaſe the members from their oath of ſecrecy.

The meſſage being communicated, a bill was immediately brought in to releaſe the members of the court-marſhal from the obligation of ſecrecy, and paſſed through the lower houſe without oppoſition: but in the houſe of lords it appeared to be deſtitute of a proper foundation. They ſent a meſſage to the commons, deſiring them to give leave that ſuch of the members of the court-martial, as were members of that houſe, might attend their lordſhips, in order to be examined, on the ſecond reading

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reading of the bill: accordingly, they and the reſt of the court-martial attended, and anſwered all queſtions without heſitation. As they did not inſiſt upon any excuſe, nor produce any ſatisfactory reaſon for ſhewing that the man they had condemned was a proper object of mercy, their lordſhips were of opinion that there was no occaſion for paſſing any ſuch bill, which, therefore they almoſt unanimouſly rejected. It is not eaſy to conceive what ſtronger reaſons could be given for proving Mr. Byng an object of mercy than thoſe mentioned in the letter ſent to the board of admiralty, by the members of the court-martial, who were impowered to try the imputed offence, conſequently muſt have been deemed well qualified to judge of his conduct. An. 1757.

The execution of admiral Byng.

The unfortunate admiral being thus abandoned to the ſtroke of juſtice, prepared himſelf for death with reſignation and tranquility. He maintained a ſurpriſing chearfulneſs to the laſt; nor did he, from his condemnation to his execution, exhibit the leaſt ſign of impatience or apprehenſion. During that interval he had remained on board of the Monarque, a third rate ſhip of war, anchored in the harbour of Portſmouth, under a ſtrong guard, in cuſtody of the marſhal of the admiralty. On the fourteenth of March, the day fixed for his execution, the boats belonging to the ſquadron at Spithead being manned and armed, containing their captains and officers, with a detachment of marines, attended this ſolemnity in the harbour, which was alſo crouded with an infinite number of other boats and veſſels filled with ſpectators. About noon, the admiral having taken leave of a clergyman, and two friends who accompanied him,

An. 1757. walked out of the great cabin to the quarter-deck, where two files of marines were ready to execute the ſentence. He advanced with a firm, deliberate ſtep, a compoſed and reſolute countenance, and reſolved to ſuffer with his face uncovered, until his friends repreſenting that his looks would poſſibly intimidate the ſoldiers, and prevent their taking aim properly, he ſubmitted to their requeſt, threw his hat on the deck, kneeled on a cuſhion, tied one white handkerchief over his eyes, and dropped the other as a ſignal for his executioners, who fired a volley ſo deciſive that five balls paſſed through his body, and he dropped down dead in an inſtant. The time in which this tragedy was acted, from his walking out of the cabin to his being depoſited in the coffin, did not exceed three minutes.

Paper delivered by him to the marſhal of the admiralty.

Thus fell, to the aſtoniſhment of all Europe, admiral John Byng, who, whatever his errors and indiſcretions might have been, ſeems to have been raſhly condemned, meanly given up, and cruelly ſacrificed to vile conſiderations. The ſentiments of his own fate he avowed on the verge of eternity, when there was no longer any cauſe of diſſimulation, in the following declaration, which, immediately before his death, he delivered to the marſhal of the admiralty. "A few moments will now deliver me from the virulent perſecution, and fruſtrate the further malice of my enemies. Nor need I envy them a life ſubject to the ſenſations my injuries, and the injuſtice done me, muſt create; perſuaded I am that juſtice will be done to my reputation hereafter: the manner and cauſe of raiſing and keeping up the popular clamour and prejudice againſt me, will be ſeen through. I ſhall be conſidered (as I now perceive myſelf) a victim deſtined

tined to divert the indignation and reſentment of an injured and deluded people from the proper objects. My enemies themſelves muſt now think me innocent. Happy for me, at this my laſt moment, that I know my own innocence, and am conſcious that no part of my country's misfortunes can be owing to me. I heartily wiſh the ſhedding my blood may contribute to the happineſs and ſervice of my country; but cannot reſign my juſt claim to a faithful diſcharge of my duty according to the beſt of my judgment, and the utmoſt exertion of my ability for his majeſty's honour, and my country's ſervice. I am ſorry that my endeavours were not attended with more ſucceſs; and that the armament, under my command, proved too weak to ſucceed in an expedition of ſuch moment. Truth has prevailed over calumny and falſhood, and juſtice has wiped off the ignominious ſtain of my ſuppoſed want of perſonal courage, and the charge of diſaffection. My heart acquits me of theſe crimes: but who can be preſumptuouſly ſure of his own judgment? If my crime is an error in judgment, or differing in opinion from my judges, and if yet the error in judgment ſhould be on their ſide, God forgive them, as I do; and may the diſtreſs of their minds, and uneaſineſs of their conſciences, which in juſtice to me they have repreſented, be relieved and ſubſide as my reſentment has done. The Supreme Judge ſees all hearts and motives, and to him I muſt ſubmit the juſtice of my cauſe." An. 1757.

Notwithſtanding all that has been ſaid in his favour; notwithſtanding the infamous arts that were practiſed to keep up the cry againſt him: notwithſtanding this ſolemn appeal to heaven in his laſt moments, and even ſelf-conviction of innocence, Remarks upon the admiral's fate.

An. 1757. cence, the character of admiral Byng, in point of perſonal courage, will ſtill with many people remain problematical. They will ſtill be of opinion, that if the ſpirit of a Britiſh admiral had been properly exerted, the French fleet would have been defeated, and Minorca relieved. A man's opinion of danger varies at different times, in conſequence of an irregular tide of animal ſpirits, and he is actuated by conſiderations which he dares not avow.

After an officer, thus influenced, has heſitated or kept aloof in the hour of trial, the mind, eager for its own juſtification, aſſembles, with ſurprizing induſtry, every favourable circumſtance of excuſe, and broods over them with parental partiality, until it becomes not only ſatisfied, but even enamoured of their beauty and complexion; like a doating mother, blind to the deformity of her own offspring. Whatever Mr. Byng's internal feelings might have been; whatever conſeqences might have attended his behaviour on that occaſion; as the tribunal before which he was tried, acquitted him expreſly of cowardice and treachery, he was, without all doubt, a proper object for royal clemency, and ſo impartial poſterity will judge him, after all thoſe diſhonourable motives of faction and of fear, by which his fate was influenced, ſhall be loſt in oblivion, or remembered with diſdain. The people of Great Britain, naturally fierce, impatient, and clamorous, have been too much indulged, upon every petty miſcarriage, with trials, courts-martial, and diſmiſſions, which tend only to render their military commanders raſh and precipitate, the populace more licentious and intractable, and to diſgrace the national character in the opinion of mankind.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.